

THE BEACON

BENNINGTON COLLEGE
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Published Every Other Week by Students of the Bennington College Community.

April 24, 1947

Bennington College, Bennington, Vermont

Vol. 1, No. 2

COMMISSION STARTS WORK; IMPORTANT MEETING PLANNED MAY 3

Commission Government and Social Behavior Investigated

The Commission on Community Government and Social Behavior had its first series of meetings on April 13-15th. The main issues discussed were the procedures of the Commission, and the nature of the problems with which they were to deal.

The Commission, an advisory board, considers its main functions to be the discussion of the present status of the College Community; to make recommendations designed to create a more constructive frame-work for the functioning of Community Government. These suggested changes will not in any way effect the basic educational philosophy of Bennington. The Commission believes strongly in the present educational philosophy; and has no intention of recommending procedures that will alter it.

The Commission is a means of bringing together persons, whose knowledge of the Community Government at Bennington, and other forms of government structures, both on the college and civic level, is such that it will enable them to offer constructive suggestions concerning the present social and administrative problems at Bennington.

Constitution Considered

One of the problems, confronting the Commission, is the existing Constitution of the College. The Commission agrees with Mrs. Franklin that "to call that thing a constitution is ridiculous, what it is is a set of by-laws". The Commission plans to write a tentative constitution, to be submitted to the Community for their approval. The Community may then make any revisions they wish, or reject it entirely. The tentative plan for the new constitution is to have a preamble explaining the aims and purposes of the Bennington Community; stating standards essential to this purpose. This will be designed to remain as the permanent base of Community government, to be changed only if the educational philosophy of the College changes. The "By-Laws" and the "Rules and Regulations", will also be subject to revision by the Community, when conditions warrant it.

Don't we feel that the Constitution, as it now stands, is detrimental to the running of a democratic community? Isn't its present form mechanistic, awkward and unmanagable? Democratic Community living is an important aspect of the educational experience at Bennington, and the Constitution should be one example of our ability to cope with this experience. Its form as well as its content should represent the Community's ideals and goals in the venture of democratic living. The Constitution should be something representative of Community sentiment and political competence, and not something to hide away in closets until the Community Government meets with some snag in its machinery for handling campus problems. We also know that more important than the structure of the Constitution itself, is the failure of the Community in carrying out the ideals, inherent in the educational philosophy it represents.

Central Committee Praised

The Commission emphasizes the responsibility of the individual toward



COMMISSION AT WORK

Reading l. to r.: Mrs. George Franklin, Miss Marshall, Mr. Kaiser

moral problems in the Community. The Commission realizes that the behavior problem is not unique to the Bennington campus, and the Commission is in no way a device for installing rules or regulations that would curb the freedom of the Bennington students.

Though the Commission will not neglect behavior problems that effect the reputation of the college, it in no way intends to sacrifice the educational benefits which allow the student to learn, by the "trial and error method", the proper means of conducting herself with regard to group standards. In an interview with Mrs. Franklin she said: "I would personally be very upset if the attitude of Central Committee, in attempting to educate offenders, were changed. It is one of the good things we do here."

The meetings of the Commission were informal and spontaneous. Mrs. George Franklin, chairman of the trustees, and Mrs. William H. Wills attended as the trustee representatives. Representing the alumnae were Mrs. Ernestine Cohen Meyer '37, president of the alumnae association, and Mrs. Carolyn Crossett Rowland '37. Miss Marshall, former faculty member on Central Committee, Mr. Kaiser, one of the former faculty advisors to Community Council, and Mr. Salvadori, were the faculty representatives present. The elected representatives of the students were Mary Fox Hellweg, Ella King Russell, and Muriel Seelye.



MR. BOEPPLE CONDUCTS CHORUS

Bennington Students to Participate in Carnegie Hall Concert April 25th

Of extraordinary interest to Bennington students and music lovers alike, is the concert to be presented in Carnegie Hall on Friday evening, April 25, by the combined voices of the Williams Glee Club, conducted by Robert G. Barrow, the Bennington College Chorus and the Dessoff Choirs, conducted by Paul Boepple. This is the first time that a Bennington group has combined with Williams in a program of importance and real musical achieve-

Students Urged to Cooperate Through Attendance

On SATURDAY, MAY 3d, the Commission will meet with the Community to discuss the vital issues now facing the Bennington campus. This meeting will be one of the most important events of the term, and every student should attend.

There has been a lot of murmuring over coffee cups about the future of Bennington, and the effect of the Commission. Groups have gathered in far away corners, to bemoan the fate of the college, and changes that they say will take place. After these interludes of "sounding off", the participants have let their talk evaporate into lethargy, instead of turning their words into political action. Many people feel that our Community meetings have degenerated into a parliamentary farce. There is a whole group on campus, namely the freshman and the sophomores, who have never had the opportunity to see a vital, enthusiastic, and constructive community in progress.

An attitude of apathy on the part of community members will be instrumental in destroying the educational and social ideals professed in this college community; indifference with respect to community life is fatal.

It is up to the Community to take an active interest in the Commission. They should cooperate with it, not by blindly accepting or rejecting their suggestions, but by making constructive comments and observations regarding the community. Attending the meeting on May 3d is imperative. It is one way of insuring the progress of the college—representing the ideals and goals of its members.

At the meeting four members on the Commission, will speak: Mrs. Franklin, chairman of the trustees, a student, alumna, and faculty member. These speakers will present some of the points of view of the Commission. The Community will have an opportunity to question the Commission, and participate in the discussion of the problems raised.

Prominent Speakers to Appear in Williams Spring Forum

The students and faculty of Bennington College have been invited to attend the Spring Conference at Williams College. It is to begin on Friday, May 2nd, and will continue through Sunday, May 4th. Among those participating in the discussions are F. O. Mathiessen, Clement Greenberg, F. H. LaGuardia, Charles Bolte of AVC, Gordon Clapp of TVA, Frank Surface of Standard Oil, Robery Lynd of Columbia Univ., John Fairbank and Clyde Kluckhoun of Harvard Univ., Frederic Wertham of Bellvue Hospital, Freda Kirchway of the "Nation", Congressman Monroney, and Peter Drucker of Bennington. This is the first Conference since the beginning of the war, and it promises to be excellent.

The first panel discussion will be Saturday morning from nine until twelve o'clock. Its subject will be "The Future of the American Economy".

In the afternoon from one to three-thirty there will be a panel on "The Future of Our Psychology and Our Ideals Under the Pressure of Social Change". The panel will consist of literary, artistic, and sociological experts. From three to five-thirty, there will be a panel discussion of "The Future of Scientific Research and Development Under the Pressure of Social Change". This panel will be led by James Phinney Baxter, President of Williams College, and will be made up of scientists and industrialists who are familiar with wartime scientific developments. Saturday evening at eight o'clock the question before the panel will be: "Is Political Freedom Compatible With Economic Plannings?"

The subject for the final panel, Sunday morning from ten until twelve-thirty, is "Will the United States Find Itself in a Predominately Socialist World in the Foreseeable Future?" At the conclusion of this panel, Dean Robert R. Brooks will deliver a brief address in summation of the weekend discussions.

College Outing Club Organized by Student Group

A group of Bennington students have drawn up plans for a Bennington College Outing Club, which will be affiliated with the Inter-Collegiate Outing Club Association. The purpose of the Outing Club is to organize group ski trips, hikes, and canoe trips throughout the surrounding country.

When the Club is established, it hopes to participate in weekend outings with other college outing clubs. It has already been in contact with the Williams Outing Club and the Green Mountain Outing Club in Bennington, who have provided maps and helpful information about nearby terrain.

The advantage of an Outing Club on campus will be to give girls who like to hike and climb an opportunity to do so with an experienced group. The Club hopes to pool all equipment, so that every member can share in the activities.

There is now a tentative membership of about 50 people, and everyone interested in outdoor sports and activities is urged to join. Membership dues are \$1.00 a year.

ment. The concert, therefore, will prove an interesting and valuable experiment for all those concerned, and may be a significant step forward for our Music Department. In addition to the two College groups, the Dessoff Choirs of New York, a mixed company, will bring the total number of voices to approximately 300.

The program will be:

"Media Vita" Jacob Handl
The combined Choruses under the direction of Robert G. Barrow
"Regnum Mundi" Jacob Handl
"Pueri, Concinite" Jacob Handl
Bennington College Chorus

"Mirabile Mysterium" Jacob Handl
The Dessoff Choirs

"Fratres" Jacob Handl
"Surrexit Christus" Jacob Handl
Williams Glee Club

"Planxit David" Jacob Handl
The combined Choruses under the direction of Robert G. Barrow

"Requiem" (K. 626) W. A. Mozart
The combined Choruses under the direction of Paul Boepple.

Tickets may be purchased at the Cooperative Store or at the Carnegie Hall box office.

THE BEACON

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Religion in the College Community

A few weeks ago, in his opening address of the term, President Jones stated that he had received comments from both students and outsiders to the effect that there was not enough attention paid to religion on the campus. In view of this fact, it had been suggested to him that perhaps a chapel should be built on the campus.

This is not a matter to be regarded lightly, since any decision to build a chapel, even if attendance were not made compulsory, would effect the community as a whole. We have given the matter a great deal of thought, and, after much consideration, have come to the conclusion that it would not be a beneficial move.

This college was founded on the belief that each student is an individual, and, as such, has a right to his own convictions on all matters: social, political, religious or otherwise. The presence of a chapel, whether compulsory or not, would seem to refute this belief. It's very existence would bear with it the implication that religion is an essential part of every human being's life. Actually, it is up to each individual to decide for herself how important a role religion will play in her life. We feel that when a person is mature enough to go to college, she is also mature enough to know what she does or does not want in regard to religious matters, and should not be forced or even urged to attend religious services against her will. For those who wish to attend them, there are churches of all denominations nearby, to which adequate transportation facilities are provided.

Only 150 Vote

It would seem that Bennington students favor much talk and little action; at least this would be the unfortunate but valid conclusion of any honest observer confronted with the following facts: first of all, that seldom has a community enterprise received as much attention and caused as much discussion as has the new Commission on Community Government and Social Behavior; secondly, that out of a potential three hundred and some votes for the three student representatives on the Commission, only one hundred fifty votes were cast. Less than 50 percent of the students on this campus were interested enough to express their preferences. It isn't as if it required much effort; indeed, ballot slips were placed in the mail boxes, so that all that was necessary was a pencil and a little considered judgment. That this was too much to ask seems inconceivable. If intense interest in the community cannot be translated into simple, but significant action when the occasion calls for it, then the interest and enthusiasm appear as mere lip service.

Quite to the contrary, the recent community elections received excellent support. The high percentage of voters in this instance was gratifying. It also serves to make more mysterious, the already mystifying question as to why only one hundred fifty students voted for the commission representatives.

It is universally agreed, we believe, that the representatives elected to the commission could not be better. They have the confidence, the respect and the hopes of the general student body. It remains to be seen whether or not

c/o R. S. V. P.

Letter Box

Dear Editor:

Isn't it strange, in a community which discusses religion so extensively, that we perpetually and intentionally ignore any form of worship? Occasionally, a few of us "scrape up enough energy to DRAG ourselves out of bed and down to church" with sour faces and childish complaints. Why do we object to being guided in our religions here at college? It seems we would far rather condemn them. We have few objections to learning a bit of psychology, studying literature, or cutting up the dogfish, but when the suggestion of learning about religion through church attendance is made, we scorn the idea. "But Sunday is the only morning I can sleep", or "It's too much trouble to get there", or "It takes up too much time" are but few of the ridiculous comments made. This adolescent, boarding-school attitude certainly doesn't show that we are the mature, independent college women we are supposed to be.

It is true that many of us feel that our convictions about God and religion have been swayed or become shaky since our arrival at Bennington. This is only natural as a result of our growing knowledge in subjects which conflict with religious theories such as science and philosophy, and our tendency at this age to be swept under by the spectacular and brilliant scientific discoveries. So we fall for the "glamorous facts" and start disbelieving. As a matter of fact, we feel pretty proud and sure of ourselves with that mind-of-my-own idea which gives us the power to brag about "my own personal belief . . . which isn't God as everyone else sees him, but something much more profoundly abstract and real". This supposedly intelligent statement becomes common among most of us and is merely a cover-up for a completely confused mind on the subject of religion. Why, when we reach this muddled state of mind don't we turn to the church for guidance instead of reveling in our growing ignorance? The answer to this is—we are just plain lazy and can't be bothered! This is an indisputable FACT, and I should say NOT one of which to be proud!!!

Penny Hall

To RSVP:

While reading RSVP in the last edition of the Beacon, your request for letters concerning the place of religion on campus prompted me to write in and suggest that a chapel be built on campus. At this time, when the community feels itself at loose ends, there is need for a unification of faith and spirit which I think could be effected through the building of a chapel in which regular services could be held on Sundays and Holy Days. This church would be non-sectarian and perhaps non-compulsory evening services could be held there. I realize that there are many churches in the immediate vicinity but not one in which all denominations of the whole community could feel a part. I think a chapel on campus would stimulate interest in religion in the form of actual worship. It would be an asset to the community. This place needs some sort of stabilizing force, which is now lacking. I think a chapel would fulfill that need. Also, it would draw the community together in something other than the mere selfish intellectual pursuits of the individual students.

Yours,

E. Cresswell

Remember, THE BEACON is your newspaper. We welcome letters-to-the-editor, and encourage you to send in articles on any subject. The deadline for the next issue is Tuesday, April 29. Please address your letters c/o RSVP, and place them in Box 104.



"Each student's program of study is planned under the close supervision of a counselor . . ."—Bennington College Bulletin.

the general student body will prove itself worthy of confidence and respect, by making this instance of apathy and indifference the outstanding exception in a year in which lip service and empty gestures can have no place.

RE: MARX

by Miriam Marx

With the exception of about a hundred and thirty-five million people who go to the movies, and about two million more who never go anywhere at all, most people will tell you that they prefer the theatre to any other form of entertainment. However, in my opinion, the average theatre-goer is a pretty despicable character. In the first place, he seems to think that just because he pays \$4.40 a seat, he is entitled to be three times as rude as the guy who goes to the movies. Once he gets that ticket stub in his hand, and that program tucked under his arm, he becomes filled with a sense of his own importance.

But it doesn't end there. He also needs a pair of opera glasses, a pocket flashlight, a box of Luden's cough drops, a cough, and a loud booming voice, the latter to be used only throughout the performance—never between acts. Apparently the man next to me last Saturday night was no newcomer to the theatre game, because he really came fully equipped for the evening. He and the missis breezed in about ten minutes before curtain time, and proceeded to get everything arranged for the big event. I didn't pay much attention to them because I was trying to get up enough courage to ask the woman in front of me to remove her hat.

And that's another thing I've never understood. Why the average female finds it necessary to wear a hat with a B-29 wingspread merely because she's going to the theatre. At any rate, they all wear them, and whenever I see them, it always brings to my mind a little scene.

SCENE: A typical Park Avenue apartment, complete with copies of The Wall Street Journal strewn casually around the room. Mrs. B., a typical Park Avenue matron, is also strewn casually around the room, or to be more exact, is lying on the couch reading the *Life of Lily Dache* by John Fredericks. Her husband enters, waving an envelope in front of him.

Mr. B.: Take a look at this Daphne. If you ever had any doubts as to your husband's importance, you can just forget them. Do you know what's in this envelope? (He places it between his teeth and does a quick dance around the room.)

Mrs. B.: For goodness sake, Leslie, stop acting like a fool, and take that envelope out of your mouth. From the way you're behaving, you'd think you had tickets to Finian's Rainbow.

Mr. B.: (Beginning to giggle hysterically)

That's it, Daphne. That's it! I do have tickets to Finian's Rainbow.

Mrs. B.: (Overcome) Oh Leslie! But how—but where—but when—

Mr. B.: I got them this afternoon. Of course they were a little expensive—three hundred dollars a piece—but when you consider what we're getting . . .

Mrs. B.: (Trembling with excitement) Oh darling, I'm so happy I could weep. When are we going?

Mr. B.: Tonight.

Mrs. B.: (Enraged) You fool, you! You idiot! I can't possibly go tonight.

Mr. B.: (Bewildered) But dearest, why not?

Mrs. B.: (Shouting) I have no hat! The largest one I have only measures thirty-five inches in diameter, and I wouldn't be caught dead in that at Finian's Rainbow!

Mr. B.: (His anger aroused) You wouldn't be caught dead in it, eh? We'll see about that. (He pulls out a gun and shoots her. Begins chewing tickets as—The Curtain Falls.)

But to get back to the people sitting next to me. They didn't say a word until the curtain went up, and from that point on, they were deep in conversation. Apparently she was deaf. Not completely, but just enough so that her husband had to repeat the whole thing to her, line for line, as the play proceeded. She was also afflicted with a chronic cough, which only became chronic in the middle of some tense love scene. This gave the rest of the audience the idea, and I soon began to suspect that I was surrounded by a group of consumptives. Each had his own carton of cough drops which he could pull out and unwrap with slow, deliberate gestures, so that every crackle could be distinctly heard.

That wasn't the end of my difficulties. Each time the curtain went down the husband would whip out his little flashlight to read the program. It was a splendid idea, except that instead of flashing it on the program, he would flash it in my eyes. The result was, that for the first half of each scene, I would be seeing colored spots in front of me, instead of the performers. And don't think it isn't a peculiar sensation to hear a duet sung by a couple of colored spots.

By the time the show was over I had acquired a running eye, a hacking cough, and a firm conviction that I'd rather go to the movies.

In Review

"In Review" will be featured in every issue of the Beacon. It will cover off-campus material—books, movies, theatre, records, etc.—in an attempt to criticize worthwhile subjects and bring them to the attention of the community.

People are talking about *Gentlemen's Agreement*, a new novel by Laura Z. Hobson. There's a reason why the book jacket—enlarged to five times its normal size—appears in so many book store windows.

Gentlemen's Agreement, despite several flaws, carries a timely message. It is the story of a young writer, Phil Green, who comes to New York to work for a leading liberal magazine. The editor of "Smith's Weekly" hands Phil a tough job for his first assignment: a series of articles about anti-semitism.

Realizing the difficulty of his assignment, Green is puzzled about the method to use in uncovering the facts for his story. Finally, he decides that the most effective way to get material is to pretend for several weeks that he is Jewish. Only a few people are in on his secret; among them are his boss, his mother, son and sweetheart. His assignment soon becomes an obsession, because he is forced into a complete and sudden awareness of the problem of anti-semitism. The plot, though it may sound fairly fantastic, becomes quite plausible. Laura Hobson does a competent and consistent job in revealing Green's experience.

The sub-plot, the hero's love affair with Kathy, the boss' niece, involves the upset of their wedding plans when a series of picaresque arguments convince Phil that his fiancée is anti-Jewish; despite her liberalism and her surface fight against anti-semitism, she cannot take any firm steps toward action.

There are two main faults in the book. One is the almost too pat and thorough job that the author has done in trying to cover every phase of anti-semitism. The other has to do with the style. It is often too studied

Faculty Concert

The first informal faculty concert this term was held on Wednesday night, April 9. The program was: Brahms, Sonata in E Flat major for clarinet and piano; Mozart, Sonata in G major for violin and piano; Beethoven, Trio in B flat major for clarinet, cello and piano.

Brahms clarinet sonata played by Mr. Schonbeck, was technically very difficult, and Mr. Schonbeck managed very well the problem of matching the clarinet's "monotonous tones" to the complexity and color of the music. He was particularly good in the third movement in spite of a few technical errors. Mr. Tucker did a fine job at the piano.

Those who think Mozart is merely light and charming should have heard his G major violin sonata, played Wednesday night by Miss Pernel. From the opening chords, majestically delivered by Mr. Levy, throughout the adagio and allegro the atmosphere was one of tension. The mood changes abruptly, however, with the theme and variations movement. Gentleness and charm characterized Mr. Levy's solo variation, and members of the community were continually moved by Miss Pernel's concentrated approach, as well as impressed by her technical superiority.

The Beethoven trio is enchanting throughout. It was performed with rare unity by Mr. Schonbeck, Mr. Finckel, and Mr. Tucker. The artful, rollicking Allegro con Brio, the slightly sentimental Adagio, and the sheer fun of the Theme and Variations may well have rendered the Trio the most popular of the evening.

Tryouts

Results of tryouts for THE BEACON will be posted on the bulletin board in Commons this week. New members on the staff will be notified as to the date of the next Beacon meeting.

and filled with "effective" touches which seem either stilted or awkward. Nevertheless, *Gentlemen's Agreement* puts its point across.

Dinner-Date With Jimmy

by Elizabeth Sherwin

The other evening, two of us went to town for dinner. We were discussing personalities to be interviewed in this column (over deep-sea scallops and French-fried onions) when Mr. Raleigh joined us. After we had talked with him a few minutes, we decided that this very conversation would make an interesting interview.

We plied him with the usual questions: where he was born, where he had worked, reactions to the college students, plans for the future, etc., etc. We found out that he came from Lowell, Mass., but had worked in Albany before settling in Bennington. Mr. Raleigh liked Albany, was interested in its politics and hopes to open a branch restaurant. He thinks that local (Bennington) politics seem like "Penny-anti" as compared to Albany's O'Connell machine. In 1942 he became owner of the Bennington restaurant and soon afterwards, had it redecorated. We questioned him about those bird prints covering two walls and found that they're a sore point with Mr. R. He said he was "rooked" about a thousand dollars in purchasing them. Now he wants to have photograph-murals decorate the place; photographs of groups of college students, of the mountains, the college, and of friends prominent in Bennington.

At seven-thirty the pianist began to play. Mr. Raleigh pointed his pipe-stem toward him and said he was hired for the purpose of "making noise on dull evenings". Then the blue-jean trade began filtering in and we asked him what he thought about the college girls, their drinking habits, their manner of dress, and the reaction of the townspeople toward them. He said he thinks blue-jeans are "marvelous", and added that "the college girls are welcome here even if they don't buy anything. They help to create atmosphere (what an understatement) by adding color and class to the place."

Mr. Raleigh agrees whole-heartedly with the Vermont state liquor laws and said he wouldn't want to make money by selling liquor to those under twenty-one. He termed the drinking of the college girls as "mild". At this point, the pianist began a vigorous rendition of "Heartaches". Mr. Raleigh's comment was that the pianist had a peculiar faculty for "startling" the customers.

The restaurant is comparatively quiet during the winter and our host (dinner was free that evening) said he missed the students during the non-resident term. Next winter he hopes to go to California and visit his brother, who is with the 20th Century Fox Studios.

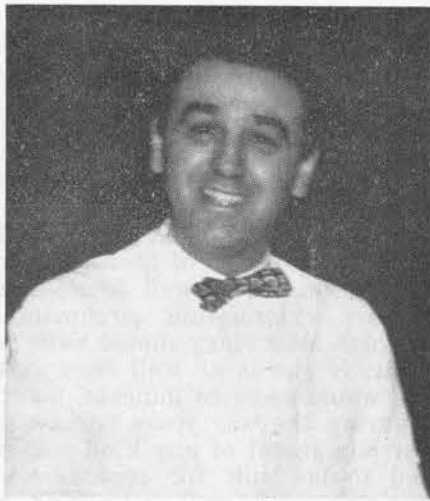
Champagne at 21

He likes his work, otherwise he wouldn't be willing to spend an average of fourteen or fifteen hours a day in the restaurant. We had frozen eclairs for dessert, which Mr. Raleigh said were fast becoming a specialty.

Of interest to students under twenty-one is the fact that the restaurant will give each student, on her twenty-first birthday, a free bottle of champagne. Looking the proverbial gift horse in the mouth, we asked if the champagne

would be imported or domestic. "The pretty girls will rate imported and the 'other' girls, domestic. And" Mr. Raleigh added, "I will be the judge!" We midwesterners are simple folk with simple tastes, so we'll collect our bottle of domestic and be grateful.

The restaurant is a favorite place among business men, and the owner is



JIMMY

proud of the fact that many big business deals, such as the buying and selling of mills, have been transacted over a Raleigh Restaurant table.

In New York, Mr. Raleigh and his wife's favorite places are the Blue Angel and Chambord—Chambord, that is. Horse racing interests him, though the summer track season is the busiest season for the restaurant. Last summer the tourist trade was the best it has ever been.

Jimmy admits he knows just about everything that goes on in town and is interested in its development. He says that Bennington needs better recreational facilities, such as a swimming pool and a new theatre.

The pianist played a lethargic "Jealousy" and we started on our second round of frozen eclairs. Jimmy emptied his pipe and went back to mixing behind his newly enlarged bar.

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"Shoes too"

In Defense of Wallace

by Marilyn Miller

Newspapers have been carrying stories of the indignation of various Congressmen over some of the statements Henry Wallace has been making during his lecture tour through England.

That, in itself, is not surprising; Henry Wallace has aroused indignation among Congressmen before. What is distressing are the requests from many people, Congressmen or otherwise, that Mr. Wallace's passport be revoked and that he be prosecuted under the Logan Act of 1799 which, to quote the N. Y. Times, 'prohibits any American citizen from dealing with a foreign government or its agents in a matter in dispute between the two countries or to defeat the measures of the Government of the United States'.

It would not be possible to convict Mr. Wallace under this act for two reasons. One, he is not dealing with a foreign government or its agents in a matter of dispute between two countries. There is no dispute between the United States and Great Britain. Two, he is not trying to defeat the measures of the U. S. government . . . President Truman's policy for restraining Communism through aid to Greece and Turkey does not become a 'measure' until it has been passed by Congress.

What is distressing is the attempt to keep Mr. Wallace quiet. Because Mr. Wallace does not agree with the stated policy of President Truman, is he to be gagged or prosecuted as a criminal? There are certainly a good many people in the country who do not agree with many policies of the government, whether they agree with Henry Wallace or not, and who wish they had the opportunity, as has Mr. Wallace, to make known their disagreement and their own views. The crime is essentially not Wallace's, but the fact that these people do not have the means to make their views known, and are not organized to be effective. To citizens of a country which professes freedom of opinion and of speech, the desire of the country's legislative representatives to muzzle a dissenter brings confusion and fear. Once this is started, where does it end?

Whether one agrees with his views or not, there can be no doubt that Henry Wallace is concerned with the best interests of this country. He is not alone in thinking that this country's interest is tied up with every other country in the world. To accuse him of treasonable activities is dangerous as well as ridiculous.

One of the reasons for the concern of Congress is that Mr. Wallace is in a foreign country. Are we to deny in other countries what we consider a right in this country? The people of the world are well aware of what the policy of this government in so far as Greece, Turkey, and Soviet Russia are concerned. We should be glad that they have the opportunity to learn that not all Americans are blind followers of leadership. Perhaps Mr. Wallace's reception abroad will encourage other dissenters in this country to make themselves heard.

Cartoons

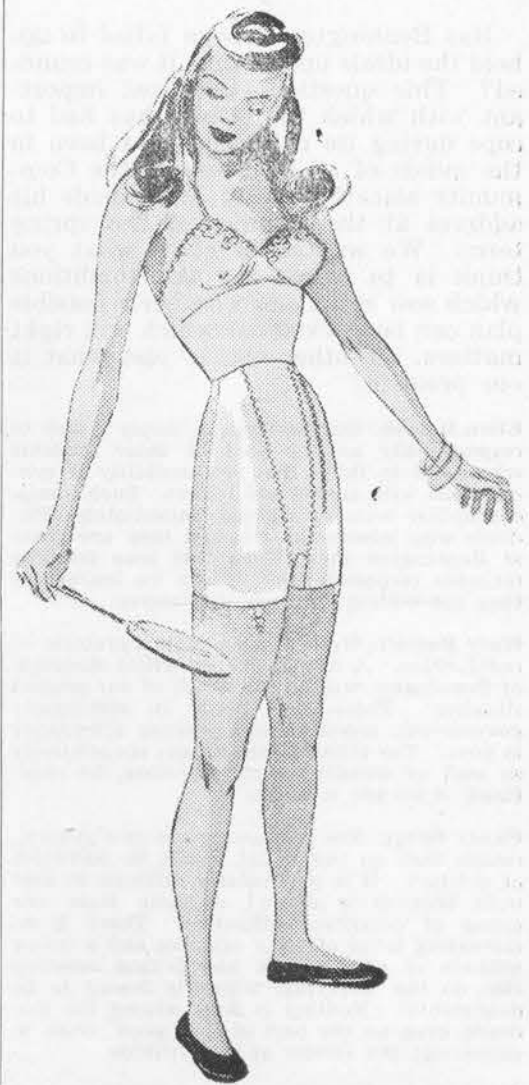
The Beacon would like to print the cartoons of as many students as possible. Everyone is invited to submit her drawings to Box 104. Those printed will, of course, be credited. All work is the property of the Beacon and cannot be returned.

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FABRICS BY THE YARD

The Informer

Has Bennington College failed to uphold the ideals upon which it was founded? This question—the most important with which the college has had to cope during its existence—has been in the minds of all members of the Community since President Jones made his address at the opening of the spring term. We wanted to know what you think is to blame for the conditions which now exist, and whether a feasible plan can be worked out which will right matters. In other words, just what is our problem?

Ellen Denson: Our problem is simply a lack of responsibility on the part of those students who seem to think that responsibility is synonymous with chains and fetters. Such a misconception must be righted immediately. Students who misuse the freedom they are given at Bennington must learn that true freedom includes responsibility. It can be learned if they are willing to teach themselves.

Mary Burrell: We are faced with a problem of redefinition. A change in the whole direction of Bennington will be the result of our present situation. There is a laxity in community government; meetings and seminar attendance is poor. The aims of the college, academically as well as socially, must, therefore, be redefined, if we are to go on.

Nancy Gregg: The problem is one of a general, rather than an individual, laxity in standards of conduct. It is particularly difficult to deal with because it doesn't emanate from one group of consistent offenders. There is an increasing trend of petty offences and a strong attitude of sitting back and letting someone else do the worrying, which is bound to be detrimental. Nothing is done among the students, even on the part of the "good" ones, to counteract the effects of this attitude.

Elizabeth St. John: The social conditions which exist at Bennington denote a general lack of responsibility, indiscretion, and forethought. The upper-classmen should be more actively responsible, and it would help if some of the things that go on socially could be publicized. It's difficult to make people worry about things they have never seen happen.

Mary Wells: The general ideal of good behavior has lowered at Bennington. I don't think the girls realize the lack of good breeding which they only too often exhibit, yet it is what other people think of us that is most important. It is admitting defeat on the part of the school if we must resort to stringent rules to solve the problem. It is up to the students, if they believe that only their efforts can effectively remedy the situation.

Paula Cornell: We definitely have a problem—a problem of whether Bennington will continue as it always has or whether the policies of the college will be changed and new and stringent rules put in and enforced. This is a unique school, but it does not appear to have been successfully unique. I question the ability of the Commission to solve the problem, and believe that the students should now take the initiative. I'd also like to suggest that something be done to improve the student-counselor relationship, for this is the only tangible link we have with the faculty administration. And I am in favor of definite distinction as far as privileges go between the lower and upper classmen. I realize that this is counter to the aims of Bennington College as it now stands, but are the original aims and purposes of the school still feasible?

Nancy Woods: I think people on campus are making too much of the problem. There is certainly a moral question involved, but I doubt very strongly that rules would rectify the situation. Many of us feel that if the policies of the school are radically changed we would rather leave than see Bennington disintegrate. Only a small group of people are causing the trouble which has been so exaggerated by rumor and too much talk. They, not the entire community, should be punished.

Interesting Alumnae: Barbara Howes

What happens to Bennington girls once they leave Bennington?

Barbara Howes was graduated from Bennington as a "lit" major in 1937 and is now co-editor of the literary quarterly, *Chimera*. The magazine was started by the Princeton boys who eventually went the way of all Princeton boys and were drafted. They called upon Barbara for help; they needed an editor. At this point she suggested David Newton who ran it for approximately a year and then left it to Barbara, who decided to edit it herself. At present she and her assistant Ximena de Anglo run it from Barbara's apartment at 265 West 11 St., N. Y. C.

Chimera belongs to the genus of "Little Magazines" along with *The Partisan Review*, *Kenyon Review* and others. It is almost entirely a literary magazine, publishing poems, critical essays, reviews and stories. One of its main purposes, its *raison d'être*, is to afford an opportunity for the material of good and often unknown writers to be printed and read. It belongs to what might be called the literary "avant garde". Looking back, many of the great literary names of today have been introduced through a "Little Magazine". People such as Eliot, Tate, Auden and Faulkner are among them; so the importance of these publications cannot be over-emphasized. Another aim of *Chimera* is to print articles of real value written in a serious manner. It also tries to keep up some relation to literature abroad. Not only have they published Jean Paul Sartre, but also they have printed four poems of Cournier and a number by Rimbaud which were not available in English.

Barbara's greatest problem seems to be keeping the magazine going. It has absolutely no economic foundation and thus is dependent upon subscriptions and, to some extent, advertising. Barbara does practically all of the work herself. She usually receives from 30-50 manuscripts per week and usually only one of these is acceptable for publication. Most of the other articles are done by request. She will meet someone at a literary party who will give her the name of a person who can do one type of writing. She is always on the lookout for new material and new types of articles because she feels that there is a great danger of becoming stereotyped by handling only one kind of writing.

Besides the four issues yearly, occasionally there are special issues such as the symposium on myth last fall. A tentative plan for the future is an issue based on the detective story as a cultural phenomenon. Her time is filled in planning for coming issues, finding good material, taking care of correspondence, and making financial ends meet.

When asked about the future of American literature, she said that she definitely did not agree with the theory that there were no more great writers to come. She thinks that there is always a core of serious interest; however, understanding of any art form has always been confined to a small part of the total population.

New York Central Replies To Article in "Beacon"

Miss Glee Dunstable, alias Janet Rouse sent Miriam Marx's article "Re-Marx" which appeared in the first issue of "The Beacon", to the New York Central System. Here is the reply she received:

Dear Miss Dunstable:

We are indebted to you for your thoughtfulness in sending us a clipping from the BEACON of Bennington College, April 10, 1947, of an article by Miss Miriam Marx covering her experience in traveling between New York and Bennington.

The article is well written and Miss Marx shows promise of literary ability. The criticism too is well founded, but there are extenuating circumstances with which Miss Marx should have been familiar, if she is as well read as her article would seem to indicate, notably, that during the war years no new passenger equipment of any kind was permitted to be built for reasons which Bennington people well understand. Following V-J Day, however, we immediately placed order for 720 bright new shiny cars, and they are being delivered to us, somewhat belatedly owing to material shortages and labor difficulties with which, of course, you are entirely familiar. These 720 cars will serve to partially rehabilitate our present fleet of over 300 main line passenger trains, and as our program continues we hope as soon as possible to get around to the New York - Bennington service for which we are only partly responsible.

Meanwhile, it is gratifying to note from her article that Miss Marx is familiar with such service as is rendered by the Twentieth Century Limited, to which she so kindly refers, and which is our outstanding train today. Other good trains which are modern in every respect include our Empire State Express, James Whitcomb Riley, Mercury, Pacemaker, Commodore Vanderbilt, etc.

In our new equipment we are undertaking to get away from the traditional interior decorative schemes, and I am enclosing leaflet which may be of interest to you, showing our efforts in this direction.

I am sending Miss Marx's article to the train crews which handle these trains in order that they may see what a Bennington girl thinks about their endeavors to interpret our policy in the matter of service. I am sure they will appreciate the position taken by Miss Marx, and I am hopeful there may be some improvement.

The reference to Captain Bligh in this article is particularly fortuitous for the reason that one of my neighbors, who happens to be a Trustee of Bennington College, enjoys a reputation in some quarters of emulating Captain Bligh in some respects, and I am bringing to his attention Miss Marx's article in order that the allusion may not be overlooked.

With renewed appreciation of the interest shown in our service, which I trust will eventually come up to your expectations, believe me

Sincerely yours,
F. H. Baird
General Passenger Traffic Mgr.

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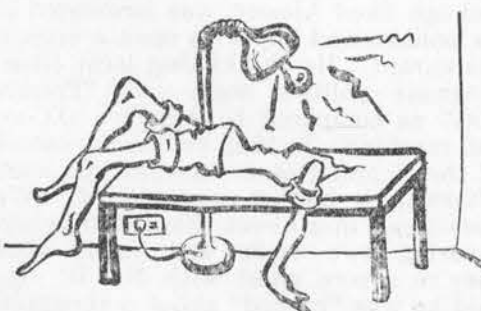
The Silo deadline is fixed for May 25th. All short stories, poems, humorous articles, drawings, and articles of a critical nature are welcome and

Rec. Council Plans Dance

Rec. Council has lined up a series of good movies to liven up Saturday nights. In the future, *Coney Island*, *A Bell For Andano*, *The Keys of the Kingdom*, *Laura* and *Man Hunt* will be shown.

Plans are underway for a series of Thursday night all-college square dances.

Rec. Council's main concern now is the approaching Spring Dance, which is scheduled for the weekend of May 24th. Biz Marsh says that the theme of the dance will remain secret, but she did say that a good orchestra has been engaged.



Rouse

Science Seminar

The Science Seminar last Thursday, instead of being a discussion of "Science in the Ancient World" was a surprise talk on a recent discovery, an exciting chance discovery by the right person, under the right circumstances, at the right time.

The right person was Dr. Arthur L. Schade, director of research at the Overlea Biochemical Research laboratory in New York City, who was visiting on campus last week.

His group at Overlea had set themselves the task of finding a virus for the control of bacillary dysentery prevalent in the Pacific area. In order to save shipping space, it was desirable to prepare the virus in a dry condition. Egg white was one of the many materials tested for this purpose and it proved to be incapable of supporting the growth of the virus.

Dr. Schade began to wonder, however, why the egg white did not work. He went back to it, made new tests and found that whenever enough iron was added, the egg white would support growth of the virus. He found that under certain acid conditions, exactly so much iron and no more was absorbed by the egg white. Any extra iron was therefore available for bacterial growth.

The fact that egg white contains an iron-binding protein suggested that some such system may also be present in the human blood. This proved to be the case.

Dr. Schade with Dr. Cohn, one of the world's leading authorities on the biochemistry of the blood, have not only discovered a new metal-binding protein in the blood, but also isolated it from the rest of the blood as a 70% pure product. This protein has untold possibilities for the treatment of anemias and knowledge of it may prove invaluable to the medical profession.

will be given careful consideration. Please put contributions in Box 126.

Do you want your friends and parents to receive THE BEACON? Put their names and addresses (along with yours) in Box 104, c/o Circulation Manager, or give them to Eleanor Cohen or Nancy Hellweg.

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THE OLD MAIDS

Directed by Marjorie Geltman

Much of the unevenness of these scenes was due to the writing, but much of it was also due to the acting. Neither Marilyn Carlson nor Claire McIntosh were convincing old ladies, and the latter's performance did not build sufficiently in fright and nervousness from the opening scenes to the climax. Their failure threw too heavy a burden upon Marjorie Geltman who was forced, in the interests of the dramatic line, to overstate her characterization of Agatha. She did, however, succeed in projecting the old beldame to the audience, and from time to time, created a powerfully sinister atmosphere.

MOSTLY MARRIED

Written and directed by Carol Martin

Though slight, this scene from Carol Martin's comedy of married life was one of the most fully realized of all those presented. The lines themselves were fairly amusing, the pace rapid, and the timing accurate. Sally Abrams brought to the role of the wife a certain Medusa-like iciness which seemed exactly right, while Edward Thommen did equally well with the character of a hard-beset and weak-kneed husband. Especial praise should be given to the marvelously toothy and idiotic grin with which Edward Thommen brought the scene to a close.

THE SHOEMAKER—Garcia Lorca

Directed by Muriel Seelye

Muriel Seelye wisely selected an incident, —a moment of crisis, rather than a scene—from the Lorca play, to present in the original Spanish. The incident chosen, both by its brevity and quality of high dramatic tension, eliminated any language difficulties which might have occurred had a longer unit been given. The violent rhythms, the deliberately "unreal" style of the Lorca drama were conveyed in the proper stylized and abstract manner. The Shoemaker's wife was convincingly portrayed, though the characterization was marred by an over-emphatic tone, evident in the early part of the scene. Alexandra Crawford, as the little boy, gave in this reviewer's opinions, the best individual performance of the evening. Her pursuit of the butterfly had all the formal aspects of a dance and a chant, and at the same time, all the purely human emotion necessary to establish her place in the play, as well as her relationship to the shoemaker's wife.

ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA—Sally Abrams

Directed by Sally Abrams

Unpleasant as it is, these scenes must, I believe, be considered a failure; more because of the difficulty of the material itself than for lack of ability on the part of the actors and actresses. Shakespeare's Cleopatra, "cunning past man's thought", an old gypsy, a great queen who hopped "forty paces through the public street", false, true, noble and base, a real woman, and Egypt itself, is not merely a difficult role, but one which demands greatness. This greatness could hardly be expected of a student actress. Failing this, however, there seems to me to be a single other choice;

that of reciting the scenes, not actually acting them but reading them instead. Neither one nor the other of these things was done; there was merely a little of each.

WAYS AND MEANS—Noel Coward

Directed by Edward Thommen

Mr. Coward would have been put to it to recognize his own scene as it was performed by Marjorie Geltman and Ben Tone. The performance had none of the underplaying and glassy smartness generally associated with a Coward production. The actors, though they resembled a couple trapped in some Illinois dowager's newly Gothic mansion more than they did a couple incarcerated in an English country house, performed with an abandon and bumptious charm which gave the scene a new and amusing twist. Marjorie Geltman rolled out the dialogue on a broad vaudevillian basis, and Ben Tone at moments rose to heights of astonishing madness, (when he cried "Open the window", for instance). The scene seemed long and dragged in the middle, which was as much the fault of the writing as it was of the acting.

LITTLE EYOFF—Ibsen

Directed by Muriel Seelye

These scenes held together largely because of the delicate and cohesive performance of Richard Baldrige. It was apparent, on the other hand, that Muriel Seelye either did not understand or completely believe in the character of Rita, the possessive wife, so she tended to relapse into an artificially over-emotional style. In the first scene, when she and Sally Abrams were alone on the stage, there was little feeling of connection between them, and though Richard Baldrige helped to dispel some of the emptiness, the subdued tone of his performance only served to enhance Muriel Seelye's stridency. And it was this stridency, th's failure to get inside Rita's character, which distorted the whole tone and meaning of Ibsen's scenes.

SCHOOL FOR WIVES—Moliere

Directed by Ray Malon

The particular section of Moliere's play chosen by Ray Malon was fairly static, and depended almost entirely upon Irene Moore's performance as a young girl who tells her guardian how she has fallen in love. Irene Moore, apart from some slight difficulty with her two voices, was charming and fresh, and successfully established the quality of the scene, and Ray Malon provided the correct counterpart for her tale of the perils of innocence.

Phoebe Pierce

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Faculty Speakers Starred in New Literary Seminar Series

In the past, the Literature division has conducted evening seminar meetings solely for its own members. Recently, many students not in the division expressed an interest in the literature faculty and students, and a desire for more information about their activities. It was felt that the Silo could cope partly with this situation, but that regular seminars would be a distinct advantage. A series of informal seminars has been arranged with an eye toward pleasing the entire Community. The speakers are now limited to faculty and students, but it is hoped that next term it will be possible to engage outside speakers.

At the first meeting of the series on April 14, two faculty members contributed to the seminar: Mr. Jackson, who read his short story "The Burnt Lemon", and Mr. Kunitz, who gave his interpretation of it. Mr. Mercier spoke on "James Joyce and his Dublin" at the second meeting.

The meetings will be held in Franklin Living Room, on Monday evenings at 7:30, except for Mr. Drucker's talk on June 30, which is scheduled for 5:00 p. m. The tentative term program is as follows:

- April 28—Stories and poems from the Silo Board
- May 5—Miss Bizzoni: "The French Symbolists"
- May 12—Mr. Fergusson: A Talk on his play "Penelope"
- May 26—Stories and poems from the Lit Workshop class
- June 2—Mrs. Foster: "The Elizabethans"
- June 9—Mr. Kunitz: A Talk on his own Poetry
- June 16—Mr. Burke: An Analysis of a Poem
- June 23—Mr. Pasinetti: A Talk on his short story "Family History"
- June 30—Mr. Drucker: "Literary Expression"
- June 7—Student Writing

Everyone is invited to attend the meetings. Beer will be sold if it is possible to make arrangements.

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Community Meeting Election Results
Announced in Resume of Committee's
Activities

The Community Meeting on April 9, was held to announce the results of campus elections and to give reports on the past year's activities from the outgoing committee officers. Ann Hart, chairman of Community Council, introduced the speakers.

The first speaker was Elizabeth Olson of Central Committee. She told of some specific violations of the Bennington Standards and Rules with which the Committee had to deal, and the methods to be adopted for such cases in the future.

Joan Funk, head of Community Chest, reported that the head of this committee will now be elected by the whole Community rather than appointed by the Community Council. Members of Community Chest, representing each student house will serve for one year instead of for one drive.

Charlotte Fowler, the Student Treasurer, gave a detailed financial report from all the committees.

Dorothy Morris, head of the Cooperative Store Board, stated some of the problems facing the store board, and announced the Board's new members: Barbara Corey, Penny Hart shorne, Phyllis Sidenberg, Jeanne Johnson, Dorothy Mackie, Mrs. DeGray and Mr. Wahnus.

Marion Marsh, head of Recreation Council, told of the Council's plans for the Dance Weekend and Saturday night movies.

Connie Payson reported for the Educational Policies Committee. She told of the need for intelligent analysis and evaluation of the Bennington educational system.

Ella King Russell, head of the General Meetings Committee, described the Committee's work in organizing evening meetings, such as the recent lecture series on Myth.

Headed by Alexandra Crawford, the Silo, Bennington's literary magazine, will reprint the best material from its last two issues in the next College Bulletin. Eleanor Carlson, Elisabeth Brown, and Jaime Spencer were appointed to succeed the outgoing members of the Silo literary board.

Leslie Denman spoke for the Steering Committee, whose main duties last year were the redefinition of the Standards and Rules, and an investigation of the Educational Policies Committee. The panel on education was the result of work between the E.P.C. and the Steering Committee.

The last report was given by Ann Hart, head of Community Council. During the past year, the Council organized panels and discussion groups to inform students of educational and governmental policies. It was recommended and approved that representatives from each of the campus committees meet regularly to discuss current problems with the Council.

Ann Hart then announced the results of the major campus elections:

Community Council Chairman Florence Sullivan
Central Committee Phyllis Brownell and Mr. Woodworth
Community Chest Chairman Byrd Symington

The new Educational Policies Committee includes:

Literature Alexandra Crawford
Drama-Dance Marilyn Carlson
Music Sally Whiteley
Social Studies Mary Burrell
Art Marilyn Lord
Science Margot Leake

The new House Chairmen are: Frances Davis, Bingham; Gina Rafetto, Booth; Susan Pierce, Canfield; Faye West, Dewey; Shirley Creamer, Franklin; Kay Ballantyne, Leigh; Sue Bangs, McCullough; Jane Langhans, Kilpatrick; Jean Ganz, Stokes-Sanford; Polly Sinclair, Swan; Lois Barnett, Welling; Muriel Reid, Woolley.

House Representatives to Community Council are: Eleanor Cohen, Bingham; Charlotte Fowler, Booth; Dorothy Mackie, Canfield; Rosemary Brown, Dewey; Marcia Ireland, Franklin; Mariam Marx, McCullough; Tish

E.P.C. Report

The editors of THE BEACON feel that the following excerpt from the Educational Policies Committee report, read by Connie Payson in the Community Meeting on April 9, is a clear expression of the responsibilities facing members of the Community at this time. We therefore are printing it in hopes that it will stimulate further discussion and thought on this subject. Ed.

Report from the E. P. C.

Bennington College is neither a static, nor a quiescent, organization. Although its educational aims remain comparatively constant, and comparatively new, as an organization it attains growth and variation through a continually changing student body, faculty, and wealth of material to study. The growth is not mechanical, not specified. It must be felt and realized each year, each term, and by every student to give any meaning to the policy of educating the individual. Ideally, the only equilibrium at Bennington is the fact of its existence.

Consequently the student government at Bennington has no meaning and cannot survive on an apathetic structure. This has been very evident in the last year. For eight months the Educational Policies Committee, like the other committees, was faced with problems and complaints principally, and very few constructive suggestions. Periodically we all witnessed the birth, and early death, of Investigating Committees who sought to discover a reason for the apparent lack of responsibility. The student government failed because it did not have community support; and it must be obvious that in a democratic structure this is a serious symptom. Although the reason was not found, there seemed to be but one attributable cause: during a period of change that was not peculiar to Bennington College, we all looked regrettably backward and did not try to build something out of what we already had.

Change is essential to Bennington. There is no symptom of degeneration or lack of initiative here now that cannot be cured by the fullest cooperation between students and government, students and faculty, and faculty and government. What we all seem to have forgotten is that the change and growth occurs in the individual, over a period of years, and not simultaneously in the whole College. "Advantage must be taken of fresh opportunities to make pertinent, timely, and concrete to the student, the experiences in which she is engaged. Continuous reorganization of the curriculum is therefore implicit in the aim and method of Bennington College." Continuous reorganization which is composed of the persistent participation and suggestions from the student body. This is the only justification of the Student Educational Policies Committee. Unlike other committees, we only fail when the Community no longer cares about the educational policy of the College, and their relation to it.

However, it should be pointed out that complaints and problems are not routine nor discouraging. It is only when they are not complimented by constructive interest and criticism that the symptom becomes serious. It is no longer trite to say that if we expect to be treated and respected as individuals we must take individual responsibility for and pride in the adventure of education. No threat of rules and individual restrictions will be strong enough, can be strong enough, until we can learn to use the organizations of expression which we have, and learn to work together like responsible people.

Eleanor Rockwell

Evans, Kilpatrick; Petrie Manning, Leigh; Elizabeth St. John, Stokes-Sanford; Eloise Moore, Swan; Peggy Brown, Welling; Cynthia Lee, Woolley.

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