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2ND NEWSLETTER FOR 1962-63

BENNINGTON COLLEGE, BENNINGTON, V.T.

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Craw Modern

From late winter Vermont comes our late winter Newsletter.

Eleanor Wylie says in Puritan Sonnet "I love the look, austere, immaculate, / Of landscapes drawn in pearly monotones." To date it has been a gentle winter, as "pearly monotones" might imply, but there is nothing mild about the College's mien. Although we are without our 350 reasons for being until March 6, within the Barn, the Crossett Library, the Commons and the student houses, work - original and continuing, new and repair, goes on a-pace.

This Newsletter chiefly concerns itself with the Non-Resident Term. But there is also an editorial, (one might describe it as such) which comes from the bottom of our hearts, and several quick news items. We hope you'll enjoy all of it. We enjoy sending it to you.

NRT

It's in full swing. As this is written, the students are beyond the mid-point. They have worked seven weeks on their Non-Resident Term jobs and have three weeks to go before returning to the College. We consulted Miss Priscilla Karb, Director of the Non-Resident Term, and asked her to tell us what was what this year. She gave us the following resume:

"In most respects the statistics for this Non-Resident Term are similar to those of other years. The largest group of students (125) is working in New York City; Boston and vicinity is next with 53; Washington, D.C. claims 15; various cities in Connecticut employ 10 students; 18 are divided among California, Kentucky, Philadelphia, Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, and Pittsburgh. Seven are working overseas - 4 in Great Britain, one in British West Indies, one in Columbia, and one in El Salvador. The Dance Tour has engaged eight students for dance performances in the northeast and middlewest. From the Faculty last year came the proposal that if a girl's counselor and her Educational Counseling Committee judged that her time could effectively and appropriately be spent in study, rather than on a job, such an assignment would be approved. Twenty-two students are so occupied in 1962.

"More students are working for educational institutions than for any other type of employer this year. Thirty-six are in colleges and universities; in fact, the list of institutions where our students are working reads like a directory of prominent universities--Harvard, Yale, MIT, Dartmouth, Brandeis,

Clark, Yeshiva, Columbia, Syracuse, the University of Chicago, the University of Pittsburgh, and the universities of Oklahoma, Tennessee, Oregon, and Pennsylvania. The jobs within these universities vary considerably, to wit: lab technicians, research workers, librarians, museum assistants, teaching apprentices, secretaries. Alumnae daughters are Louise Baum '65 (Mary Wallace Baum '37), art research assistant in NYU's School of Education; Lisa Livingston '65 (Katherine Smith Livingston '38), a laboratory research assistant at MIT; Bronwyn Jones '64 (Judith Bailey Jones '45), in the publications department of Harvard's Peabody Museum; and Jerry Perloff '65 (Adelaide Rubin Perloff '44), a lab research assistant at the Albert Einstein Medical Center. (Note: It's not that alumnae daughters have any edge. It's just that many of our readers, besides their parents and grandparents, know these girls that they are mentioned by name. We wish we could identify every student and detail her job for you. It's impressive.)

"Schools and publishing houses are tied as our second largest employers this year, each group hiring 32 Bennington students. For prospective teachers the demand and opportunity are practically unlimited, and our students are gaining experience in day-care centers, private institutions, public and independent schools, schools for disturbed children, schools for remedial training, and schools for superior children. Jane Vance '62 (Jane Kelley Vance '38) is an assistant teacher at the Pine Cobble School in Williamstown; Gail Rockwell '64 (Barbara Webb Rockwell '38) is an assistant teacher at the Kingsley School in Boston; Isabella Holden '65 (Constance Wigglesworth Holden '38) is assisting in art classes at the Shady Hill School in Cambridge, while down the hill at the Browne & Nichols School her mother employs two Bennington students as assistants in her art courses.

"A number of students talked their way into jobs with publishing houses, overcoming these firms' usual reluctance to take on temporary workers. Time, Sports Illustrated, Esquire, Fortune, the New York Times--all succumbed. Barbara Jacobson '65 (Barbara Scott Jacobson '36) is a copy-girl with the Fairchild Publications in New York.

"As usual, the visual and performing arts are as appealing as ever (despite a recent government survey to the effect that the field is overcrowded); thirty-one students are working as volunteer theatre or museum apprentices or as office assistants. Susan St. John '65 (Constance Anderson St. John '37) chose a position as a secretary to a concert agent in New York City. Linda Bratton '65 (Theodora Boothby Bratton '43) is a clerk in the library of the Art Institute of Chicago. Also in Chicago is Gail McCullough '65 (the late Doriane Woolley McCullough '37), a research assistant with Latham, Tyler, and Jensen, a design firm.

"Hospitals continue to attract many of our students, this year employing 24 of them. Jill Underwood '65 (Suzanne Stockard Underwood '38) is among this group, acting as a recreation aide at the Massachusetts General Hospital. In the allied field of health and social agencies, Bennington students always find a congenial source of jobs. This year the employers range all the way from Kentucky through Vermont to London; one of the girls at the Frontier Nursing Service in Kentucky is Carolyn Sprogell '65 (Barbara Saul Sprogell '37).

"Twelve students are government employees, either in Washington, D.C., or in state capitols. Two of these students are on top of the times as workers in the Peace Corps office in Washington, one as an office assistant, and one in a position that might best be described as 'talent scout.' Two others are in the offices of attorney-generals (California and Massachusetts) and others are in various federal government or congressmen's offices.

"Only a few of our students are employed by business firms but Pamela deWindt '64 (Elizabeth Bope deWindt '43) is varying her work experience as a clerical assistant with the Midland-Ross Corporation in Cleveland. Hannah Hewat '64 (Lydia Vaill Hewat '38) is an office assistant with a woolen mill sales agency in New York City.

"In addition to supervising the compilation of these statistics, corresponding with students, and planning a Non-Resident Term Fund campaign, the Director has also been busy visiting students on-the-job, and their employers, particularly those employers who have Bennington students for the first time. The reports are more than encouraging; the employers are pleased, and the students are recognizing and accepting the opportunities and challenges given to them.

"Finding appropriate jobs is a venture shared primarily by the Director of the Non-Resident Term and the students. But we have had lots of help this year from trustees, alumnae, faculty and parents, and here is a fine opportunity for me to thank you and to invite more suggestions from you all for NRT 1963. We welcome your ideas."

NRTeas

Sally Wolter, a junior, is the NRTea girl this year. She started out in Boston, early in January and talked at four teas given by alumnae for applicants and others. Since then she has been in New Haven, Fairfield County, Long Island, Washington, D.C., Philadelphia and New Jersey. In the next two weeks she goes to Pittsburgh, Detroit, Minneapolis, Chicago, Westchester and Hartford: In all, 29 teas.

To quote ourselves (February 1961 Newsletter):

"To describe a tea-girl is to say she is an upperclassman, poised, articulate, fast-thinking on her feet and able to talk publicly to mixed groups about Bennington. In a word, she must be able to handle tactfully and accurately questions from high schoolers (sophomores up), their parents and maybe their guidance counselors."

NRTroupers

Our Dance Troupe, 8 strong, took to the road on January 17th. Their last performance was on February 28th. It was a heavy schedule and a demanding one. Hanging on to head, health, and heart is no joke for any company, when

coping with the vicissitudes of twenty-nine different stages, trains and buses; mixed (in every way) audiences, and the severe stress and strain of one-night stands. When our group returns they will be weary-worn, will have broken even financially, and not have swapped NRT's with anyone else for anything. Here's the schedule:

January

- 17th - Harpur College, Binghamton, New York
- 18th - Bennett College, Millbrook, New York
- 19th - Barlow School, Amenia, New York
- 20th - Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, New York
- 22nd - Castleton Teachers College, Castleton, Vermont
- 23rd - Whiting Lane School, West Hartford, Connecticut
- 24th - Oxford School, Hartford, Connecticut
- 26th - The Masters School, Dobbs Ferry, New York
- 28th - Westchester Dance Council
- 31st - Everson Museum of Art, Syracuse, New York

February

- 2nd - Cleveland Modern Dance Association (sponsor), Bryon Jr. High School, Shaker Heights, Cleveland, Ohio
- 3rd - Master Class for Dance Association
- 6th - Lake Forest College, Lake Forest, Illinois
- 7th - Glenbrook High School, Northfield, Illinois
- 8th - Maine Township East High School, Park Ridge, Illinois
Hinsdale High School, Hinsdale, Illinois
- 9th - Francis Parker School, Chicago, Illinois
Chicago Arts Club, Chicago, Illinois
- 12th - U. of Chicago Lab School, Chicago, Illinois
- 13th - North Shore Country Day School, Winnetka, Illinois
U. of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois
- 15th - U. of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio (Master Class)
- 16th - Hillsdale School, Cincinnati, Ohio
Woodward School, Cincinnati, Ohio
- 18th - Western College for Women, Oxford, Ohio
- 20th - State Teachers College, Salisbury, Maryland
- 27th - Westfield Senior High School, Westfield, New Jersey
- 28th - Lasell Junior College, Auburndale, Massachusetts

The dates in Hartford, Westchester County, Syracuse, Cleveland, Chicago and Cincinnati were all alumnae-sponsored and alumnae-helped in so many ways, large and small, that we can't begin to tell the story here. We hope to print a first-hand account by one of the dancers in the May issue of the alumnae Bulletin.

EDITORIAL

The group which receives this Newsletter - parents of students, alumnae and friends - all have at least two common interests. They share a regard for Bennington, and they want their children, or their grandchildren to have a college education. And most of them, according to the evidence of press reports, surveys, and application figures, want their offspring to go to northeastern colleges. There is no doubt of the pressures on these institutions. There is no lack of student talent. It seems strange then that there should be problems, financial ones, in view of the demand. But these there are, and especially for colleges like Bennington. We want you to understand what they are. So, this editorial.

In January, President Fels was a member of a distinguished panel which discussed, at a conference at Vassar College, Neville Sanford's recently published report The American College. In his prepared remarks Mr. Fels stated very clearly what the problems are, and we quote a small portion:

"The American College avoids discussion of the financing of education, but social scientists should be put on notice, as educators need not be, that the kind of education which the authors directly or by implication support is expensive. The two colleges that are its leading exponents are the most expensive in the country.

"Not only is the kind of education expensive, but experimental colleges such as those that are recommended in The American College, ones that carry on a consistent experiment or demonstration for a long enough period to measure long-term results, suffer special disabilities. If they are well conceived they immediately rise into competition for faculty and students with established institutions whose endowments enable them to maintain lower fees and higher salaries. Foundations that pride themselves on their support of experimentation in education will readily give them small sums to do something that they don't happen to be doing but turn deaf ears to the suggestion that as large and significant an experiment as a whole college might be partially sustained for a reasonable period until its natural sources of support have grown to suitable proportions.

"Even if developmental education can be shown to be superior and economically viable, educators will not rise to its challenge unless it is administratively possible. My own experience and that of my predecessors is that it is possible, of course, but extraordinarily difficult. Individual development means, in the end, individual attention."

So, in a word, "Individual development means individual attention." In dollars and cents, what does it mean? Here's a comparison which shows dramatically what it means at Bennington, compared to Harvard's situation:

	Average Compensation for Full-time Faculty	Average Compensation per Faculty Member per Full-time Student
Harvard	\$12,895 (59-60)	\$ 688 (59-60)
Bennington	7,762 (60-61)	1,020 (60-61)

Bennington then, pays its faculty more than Harvard does for teaching each student, even though our average salary is much less.

Well, what's to be done? It's important to keep Bennington moving forward - not just holding its place, because as Dean Pearson has said, "There is the danger that the efficient educational bureaucracy, the conventional discipline and the comfortable organization man in a well-supported academic enterprise will rule out completely the small and experimental institution willing to risk, indeed dedicated to the risk of supporting the new, the far-reaching, and the unpopular, of supporting the dissenter among both faculty and students."

There is the responsibility - for the College and for you. It is urgent that the College articulate and reaffirm its liberal principles and values, and to do so it is urgent, at the same time, that its friends insist on the importance of such institutions in a democratic society by giving moral and financial support. This is an appeal for both.

JOTS

Lyman Kipp, sculptor, and Paul Feeley, painter, are each having shows at the Betty Parsons Gallery, 11 East 57th Street, New York City. They are April 2 - 21 and May 14 - June 2, respectively.

Lawrence Alloway has recently been appointed Curator of the Guggenheim Museum in New York City. One of his curatorial duties will be to direct the International Award Exhibition.

Howard Nemerov, during this NRT, is in Austria teaching a course in American Literary Criticism to graduate students from 15 countries at the Salzburg Seminary in American Studies.

Rush Welter is running, as the Democratic candidate, for Moderator of the Bennington Town Meeting. He has just completed, as well, a manuscript for the Columbia University Press.

Ben Belitt, poet, has recently received a Brandeis Creative Arts Citation. The Citation carries with it a \$1500 grant.

Lionel Nowak this winter went on a concert tour under the auspices of the Association of American Colleges, playing piano recitals from Michigan to California. He also met informally with alumnae in several cities (in Berkeley, alumnae sponsored one of his concerts) and visited a few schools for the Admissions Office.

Under the direction of Paul Boepple, the Desoff Choirs will perform the Mozart Requiem on May 2nd, at 8:30 p.m. in Carnegie Hall. At that same concert Mr. Boepple will conduct a string orchestra in the first New York performance of Louis Calabro's Symphony for Strings (Second Symphony). Mr. Calabro has been a member of Bennington's music faculty since 1955. Mr. Boepple has conducted the Desoff Choirs since 1936, and joined Bennington's music faculty in 1944. Under his direction the Bennington Community Chorus will also perform the Mozart Requiem in the Spring. Tickets for the New York performance are available from the Manager of the Desoff Choirs at 130 West 56th Street, New York City.