

Special Graduation Edition THE BEACON

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

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Bennington College, Bennington, Vermont

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Candidates for Graduation July 1947

Art

- * Joan Brauer Alpert
- Suzanne Cavanaugh
- Mary Lou Chapman
- Mabel Coddington
- Hulda Curl
- Joan Funk
- Jane Hopper
- Sally Ann Johnson
- * Elinor Waite MacDonald
- Joy Milam
- India Moffett
- Kathleen Oliver
- Ruth Wilson
- Sarah Winston

Dance

Linda Strobel Lion
Elizabeth Olson

Drama

Sally Abrams
Marjorie Geltman
Carol Martin
Lucy Glazebrook Mercier
Muriel Seelye

Music

- * Elizabeth Armes Oakes

Philosophy

Sonya Chassell

Literature

- Phyllis Bausher
- Elisabeth Evers
- Rosalie Gittings
- * Carol Goldschmidt
- Mary Hewitt
- * Judith Lindau
- Barbara Moore
- Phoebe Pierce
- Eleanor Rockwell
- Ella King Russell
- Patricia Vance

Political Economy

- * Janet Loper Coye
- Leslie Denman
- Ann Hart
- Marilyn Miller
- Constance Payson
- Ruth Sanders

Social Science

- * Patricia Curtis
- * Sonia Grodka
- Virginia Irving
- Carolyn Mackie
- Wilma Miller
- * Doris Corn Muscatine
- Hudas Schwartz

Science

- Helen Chapman
- Barbara Curtis
- Lorraine Medoff
- Marjorie Neyland
- * December graduate

To Speak Here Tomorrow Evening



President Lewis Webster Jones who will give the Commencement Address on Friday Evening, July 11, in the Carriage Barn.

Senior Projects to be Given Tonight in Dance Workshop

A special Dance Workshop will be given tonight as a part of the activities scheduled for Commencement Week-end.

The offerings will consist of some of the dances shown at the Open Workshop earlier this term and some repeated from other Workshops. Beth Olson's and Linda Lion's senior projects head the program, which is planned as follows:

Heigh Ho, Beth Olson, senior project
Backyard Barber
Bachianes Brasilas Villa-Lobos
Here No Pitying Monument ... Bartok
Linda Lion, senior project
Kansas City Stomp Jelly-Roll Morton
Out the Fire Duke of Iron
The Pleasures of Merely Circulating
Ann Hart { Wallace Stevens
 { Shostakovich
I Wish I May Ravel
Patsy Birsh
Spring Ritual Traditional
Letitia Evans, Patsy Birsh

The program is subject to last minute changes and additions, but will appear substantially as given above.

Dr. Burkhardt at Bennington

Dr. Frederick Burkhardt arrived at Bennington last week for the graduation exercises Saturday, July 12. Prior to his arrival, Dr. Burkhardt had been at Madison, Wisconsin, concluding his duties at the University. Dr. Burkhardt has already assumed some of his responsibilities as the new President of Bennington College.

Mr. Jones Returns from Arkansas for Graduation

Mr. Jones was inaugurated as new head of the Univ. of Arkansas on June 9th. He arrived in Arkansas in the middle of a tense faculty and student dispute, following the resignation of four professors over possible Communistic teaching and stifling of academic freedom. Mr. Jones soon cleared the air by stating that there was "absolutely no issue of communism in the University."

Arkansas celebrated its 75th anniversary, its commencement exercises and its inauguration of the new president in one festive week end. There were many banquets, receptions and parties. The huge inauguration ceremony was held in the early evening in an open air Greek theatre. Many other colleges and universities were represented at the ceremony. Mr. Jones said that the procession alone took an hour and a half to be seated. His address was the highlight of the occasion and will soon be published. He stressed the importance of the University working closely with the state, and the responsibility of the University in education of the future citizens of Arkansas. He stated, "we want to build here a university which is a noble expression of our civilization as the medieval universities were of theirs."

Arkansas University is composed of different colleges and schools, each with its own dean: Law School, Medical School, etc. It has many agricultural experiment stations throughout the state. It affects all significant activities in the state and practically all Arkansas doctors, teachers and profes-



Practising for Bell-Ringing Ceremony at Graduation Exercises

COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM

Friday, July 11

6:30 p. m. Buffet supper on Jennings Hall lawn, concert by the Chorus.

9:00 p. m. Commencement Address by President Lewis Webster Jones

Saturday, July 12

10:00 a. m. Conferring of Degrees, in the Barn Quadrangle.

sional people have graduated from the University. There are 5005 students, only 1500 of whom are women. 60% of the men are married, most of them ex-GI's. Mr. Jones said they are intensely serious about education and the University. In spite of the large number of students he feels that he will have a direct contact with the students and that they will be anxious to express their ideas to him.

Mr. Jones said that his chief function will be policy-making. Already he has

(Continued on page 4)

Lit Seminar Series Ends

On Monday, July 7, the Literature Seminar ended with a program of student writing. The Friday before, Peter Drucker's topic was "On Reading Prose". During the past term, there has been a weekly series of readings, followed by discussion periods. It is hoped that plans will be made for another Literature Seminar in the near future.

THE BEACON

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Simple Exercises

Bennington, in comparison to many other colleges, is known for its brief, simple graduation ceremony. It is sometimes said that our celebration is not long enough; that it is made too unimportant. Some people feel that because each graduate has worked hard for four years, that there should be more fuss when she receives her diploma.

We don't agree. The exercises are simple, but this does not take away from their importance. Part of the commencement's beauty is the traditional simplicity with which it is carried out. The bell-ringing, the "senior's walk" across the quadrangle, and the presentation of diplomas constitute the main events of the graduation ceremony. There are few frills, but we like it that way.



RE: MARX

by Miriam Marx

Now that the seniors are leaving, I'd like to take this opportunity to say what I really think of them. Up until now, I've kept my mouth shut for fear of the consequences, but by the time this issue of the Beacon comes out, I will either be flying through the air to California or my charred body will be lying somewhere in the Rockies, so in either event I will be comparatively safe.

First of all, I want to discuss the seniors who take courses in which there are first, second and third year students attending. Understand me, please, I have no objections whatsoever to seniors taking those courses, but I object strongly to the way they behave in class. If there is only one in the class, her presence dominates the room, and no one else dares utter a sound, for fear of being roundly scolded by the omnipotent senior. If there are two or more in the class, the situation becomes even more unbearable. They toss the conversational ball around with the authoritative tones of Einstein, Plato, Sophocles and Robert Taft all rolled into one. The other students sit, at first, in wide-eyed astonishment at this display of knowledge, but gradually it becomes evident even to the most unenlightened underclassman, that it is not knowledge, but an amazing display of rhetoric that is being foisted upon them. Unfortunately, however, the average teacher is unable to distinguish between the two, and so the seniors continue on their merry way, impressing themselves and the teacher with their genius, and boring the rest of the class beyond description.

You may ask why some courageous underclassman doesn't enter the fray, and at least go down fighting. I'll tell you why. Many years ago, there was a second term sophomore who did battle the all powerful ones, and what happened to her shouldn't even happen to a senior. It occurred one day in an economics class. The underclassmen were sitting in the corner marked off for them, listening to the weighty words of their elders, when suddenly this second term sophomore took the gum out of her mouth, and prepared to speak. Before any of her classmates could stop her, she had raised her hand and asked, "What page are we on, please?" There was a deathly hush. All eyes turned in her direction, and after five minutes of agonizing silence, she turned over on her stomach and wriggled

out of the room. Nothing more was said, but that night, as she lay feverish and terror-stricken in her bed, four hooded figures, with the words "class of '34" written across their chests, crept quietly into her room and removed her vocal cords.

The next thing I want to discuss is the transformation that takes place once the senior has been more or less assured of the fact that she is going to graduate. This rapid transformation is, undoubtedly, an amazing medical phenomenon, but to the layman, uninterested in the medical aspects of the case, it is a revolting and somewhat horrifying procedure. The change I am referring to is the conversion from a comparatively honest and generous individual to a grasping, thieving, cunning swindler, who will stop at nothing short of murder in order to make a few cents profit. I'll wager that there's not one graduating senior on this campus today, who is not, at this very moment, trying to force some poor unfortunate underclassman into buying a worthless, moth-eaten, rat-infested piece of rickety old furniture. This is not bargaining on the so-called gentlemanly level, with everything open and above board, but, rather, a relentless pursuit of the younger student until she, in desperation, is forced to hand over her last bit of cash in exchange for something she didn't want, had no intentions of buying, and, had there not been a gun placed uncomfortably close to her temples, would never have bought at all.

It is a disgrace to the community that such people as graduating seniors are permitted to live side by side with the decent upstanding citizens who populate this campus, and I, for one, am in favor of doing something about the situation. I demand here and now that some action be taken to protect the student body at large from being contaminated by these ogres and ghouls who pose as human beings and call themselves seniors. Segregation is not a nice word to use, but in times of crisis, strong measures must be taken. Therefore, I hereby make a plea to all of you who are interested in preserving the rights and liberties of the freshmen, sophomores and juniors; segregate the seniors, lock them up in Mrs. Woodburn's apartment and let them devour each other if they will, but save us, the youth of Bennington College, from being massacred and murdered by those foul fiends.

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The Informer

Now that the Seniors are leaving, we thought perhaps everyone could benefit from some words of wisdom on the subject of what has been of the greatest benefit to them at college. Here are some of the replies we received in answer to the question: What have you found most valuable during the time you have been in Bennington?

Connie Payson—In list form: my weekends, the apartment, the small classes, and my typewriter, and to accompany the last item, an ever swifter touch system. Probably the most important general thing has been the feeling of being one's own boss, choosing courses, planning papers, and so forth. I might add that on the other side my vote for the least valuable part of my College life was the Farm Program. It was fine for the war effort, but it was awfully moralistic and goody-goody. Running the Farm Program a close second for least valuable is the Rutland Railroad.

Sue Cavanaugh—The most important thing for me was the winter period. It gave me a chance to try out the things I'd learned and gave me a pretty good idea of what I wanted to do.

Muriel Seelye—Ask me another—When I was a Freshman I wrote a "very good" twenty page paper on "Aristotle and Shakespeare or Shakespeare as Aristotelian Tragedy". Incredible! Now I write a "mediocre" ten page paper on the words "to be" from Hamlet's speech in Scene I, Act III of one play, *Hamlet* by one author, Shakespeare. Some people call this progression—others, regression.

Ruth Sanders—I frankly think that weekends have been the most important thing. I don't mean that I wanted to stay home for four years, but the feeling that I could leave whenever it seemed necessary was wonderful. I found winter period very valuable. One thing that stands out is the chance to do pretty much what makes sense to you in the academic field. The fact that I seldom had to do anything that seemed ridiculous.

Sally Winston—It's difficult to say what has been most valuable to me. The whole experience of Bennington College has been extremely valuable: the contacts with the professors, the contacts with the students and the stimulation of the courses themselves.

Correction

In the July 3 issue of THE BEACON, Kathryn Black was credited with having taken the photograph of Mr. Passinetti. Apologies to Naomi Siegler who really took the picture!

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Vacation Plans

Bennington is looking pretty tired these days. We thought it might be encouraging to find out what a few of the worn-out, wilting people plan to do during the six short weeks of vacation.

Sandy Crawford will be out in Madison, Wisc., as NSO representative. Tish Evans and Jane Lougee Langhans will be painting on the Maine Coast. Eileen Josten will be at Tanglewood Music Festival for the entire session. Jaime Spencer, Helen Johnston, Bobi Goldberg, Rita Gillette and Naomi Siegler will also be there. Sue Worcester is yachting down to Bermuda. Cynthia Lee may be taking a Caribbean cruise. Solange Batsell is flying to Nassau for three weeks. Sally Whitely will be at the Berkshire Festival, and then will attend the first of her family's reunions in seven years at Buckhill Falls, Pa. Joan Hunt, Joan Tewksbury and Tede Lockhead are driving to Fresno, Calif., in Tewks' new Studebaker. Sue Stern may be a counsellor at Sunset Camp. Barbara Connelly is thinking of doing some painting in Taos, N. M. Margot Leake is taking a trip to Aspen, Colo. Kathryn Black and Joan Walls will be working in summer stock. Phyllis Buehler may go back to her winter work period job at the Univ. of Kansas. Ann Kenworthy will be drafting for the Philadelphia Bell Telephone Co. Charmian Duce is going to Arabia in August, where her father will be on business.

India Moffett told us she planned to stay at home a few weeks in Md., "on our Southern plantation sipping Mint Juleps on the veranda," and possibly, if

(Continued on page 4)

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In Memory of a Senior

I thought it would be appropriate this week to write a little article dedicated to a senior—one who expects to graduate. I've chosen my suite-mate because she typifies the class of '47; pale, palsied, and red-eyed. I haven't seen Mary really smile since my Freshman year. Matter of fact, I've hardly seen Mary since my Freshman year... she's been writing her thesis ever since. Once, last term we had tea together on the eve of her twenty-fifth birthday, and another time, I bumped into her in the Library, browsing over the past ten years of TIME Magazine. But she's a great kid; never complains, despite that hacking cough she's had during Senior Division.

Mary says her whole family's coming up this weekend to see her get her diploma. Mary says, though, that she's afraid she won't recognize them; hasn't seen them since she graduated from high school, and in that time her sister's been married, and has two children.

I've been appointed to remind Mary about the date of graduation. It'll be the first time she's been outdoors this term, and the sun will do her good. You know, I've been sort of worried about her—never has any fun—no let-up from work on her thesis: "Plan for the Left Wing of a Potato Bug".

Ha-ha! Here comes Mary now. Too bad she lost all her nails typing, but she looks well anyhow. At least her hair grew back. Yessir, it worked out fine. I knew her father wouldn't mind carrying her up to get her diploma. Yessir, lot of spunk, that kid. I'll certainly miss her. And after she's out in the great wide wonderful world, getting her M.A., Ph.D., L.L.D., A.S.T.P., and C.P.A. certificate (she also belongs to the S.P.C.A., and the D.A.R.) perhaps she'll come back in six or seven years to see me graduate. Maybe I'll stutter by then too. C-C-Congratulations, M-M-Mary!

H. F.



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Faculty Concert

A small audience came to an unusual concert last Thursday. Mr. Matthen and Mr. Levy gave a performance of Schubert's "Winterreise"; a rare performance which unfortunately received little publicity. Schubert composed this extraordinary cycle of twenty-four songs at 30, when he was ill and gloomy. In his fabulous fashion he is said to have written six of these songs one morning before lunch. The cycle tells the tumult of emotions of a rejected lover; he progresses from melancholy and numbness to tragedy, even inanity, in the most incredible sequence of emotions. Schubert was depressed by these unhappy songs and it is possible that they reflect his own preoccupation with the desire for death which was fulfilled a year later.

Many of the songs had tremendous impact on the audience; I think they felt as I did the overwhelming burden of these frantic emotions piled steadily on top of each other. It seemed to me that not all the songs had the same immediate impact, and yet I wonder if it's possible for either performer or listener to stand the continual frenzy of despair? I was startled by the cleanliness of the tone — both of the piano and Mr. Matthen's singing. Each note seemed to hang in the atmosphere. I think that, as in all great tragedies, the sign of "success" was the peculiar anesthetizing of the heart. It was as though we were a privileged few permitted to watch a rare and private eclipse.

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Mr. Jones Returns

(Continued from page 1)

supported the new \$3,000,000 hospital and a new 5-year nursing course. One of his main objectives will be to emphasize the influential relationship of the University to the people of the state, for instance, by supporting agricultural development and experiment. The University has great significance in the lives of the people. Mr. Jones and his family plan to move out of Bennington and into Little Rock about July 25th, when Mr. Jones will officially take over his duties as president of the University.

Vacation Plans

(Continued from page 3)

conditions are favorable, motor by jeep to Chicago and "perhaps even the West Coast."

Marriages

Among those being married this summer are: Joan Funk, Florence Gallup, Victoria Henderson, Jean McAllister, Sally Baker and Eleanor Carlson. Eleanor will be back at Bennington in the fall.

A great majority of students questioned are very definite in their plans. They plan to sleep, sunbathe and swim. A number of energetic juniors will be working on theses.

Faculty

Mr. Rose is completing a survey in Pittsfield. Mr. Kunitz will spend a few weeks at the Cape writing. Mr. Drucker will be under observation for his allergies and then off for a short vacation. Mrs. Leslie hopes to take two weeks off at Lake Champlain. This will be her first vacation in a long time. Mr. Penney is going to stay in Bennington to do some painting and then perhaps motor West. Mrs. Griswold told us that she and the records office will be busy here on campus for most of the summer, "doing three months work in three weeks."

Mrs. Woodburn is leaving Benning-

ton August 1. She and her husband will make their home at 52 E. 58th St., NYC. Mr. Woodburn is editor of Henry Holt Publishing Co.

The College at Work During Summer Vacation

After the last student leaves for vacation, the Bennington employees will settle down to tasks which range from arranging class lists for next term to baling hay and storing it in the college barns.

Although there will be no summer session of classes, or conferences on campus, a great deal of construction work will be in progress. Mr. Tschorn reports that one of the new faculty houses will be ready for occupancy by August 13th. The others should be completed by October or November. The College entrance road, closed last

term for repairs, will be repaired, this time more successfully. A fourteen hundred foot water main will be laid by the Carriage Barn road. Also, haying will be done, to keep the land in good shape.

In the kitchen, a new glass washer and silver washer, that has been ordered since 1943, will finally be installed. All the houses on campus will be cleaned from attic to basement. The painting of houses, Mrs. Cook states, is done only in the winter.

Four extra assistants will be used in the Records Office to help get out freshman room assignments, program cards, class lists and get the files in shape. Mrs. Griswold believes that work during summer vacation is much harder than at other times during the year.

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