

The Bennington Weekly

VOL. 1—NO. 24

Friday, May 25, 1951

10 Cents

RETURNS FROM HELP DRIVE NOT ENOUGH TO GIVE FOREIGN STUDENTS ROOM AND BOARD

Theme Of The Fashion Show: 'A Day At The Country Club'

Final plans for the Fashion Show to be given on May 31 for the benefit of the Bennington College Scholarship Fund have been completed. The show, whose theme is "A Day at the Country Club", will be presented Thursday night at eight o'clock at the Bennington Armory. Clothes from America's foremost designers including **Claire McCardell**, **Cecil Chapman**, etc., have been imported from New York by **Vogue and Vanity** who is supplying the suavest styles, from beach to ballroom, ever seen on this side of the Green Mountains. Flower decorations will be supplied especially for the occasion by **Moore's Florists** and the **Vogue Beauty Shop** is designing original coiffeurs for the models.

Among the faculty wives who will model are the Mesdames G. Robert Stange, Paul Feeley, Bernard Kessler, Alexander Dörner, and Jose Montesinos. Students which will model include Renee

(Continued on Page 4)

German Rearmament Discussed at Seminar

Mr. Brockway, Mr. Ford and Mr. Soule discussed German Rearmament in yesterday's Social Science Workshop. Mr. Brockway spoke on the European reaction toward any rearmament plan. He said that the English, and, more important, the French, are growing less and less distrustful of such a plan, as they are becoming more aware of the need for unity in Europe.

Mr. Ford stated his belief that complete rearmament would be bad. He categorized his further statements under two opposing assumptions. Assuming that Russia is intending to invade Europe within the next few years, a careful study should be made on the quantity and quality of German manpower so that neither be overestimated.

Assuming that Russia won't start a war for a long time, which idea Mr. Ford favors, the possibility of a German civil war against the occupation forces must be considered. A war of this kind would be caused by the wrong balance between force and control. If force and control were too great, the Communists would have a good case for war. If they were too little, the Nazi party would have a good chance to gain power. Mr. Ford stressed the need for maximum force and minimum control in Germany.

Mr. Soule opened his discussion of the situation remarking that it was like a chess game played in the dard, and the Russians are very good chess players. He then made the point that the Communists don't want simply to invade and conquer. They want political victory, and the way to this may be through the economy. The Communists could take advantage of a split between the industries of East Germany and those of West Germany, by creating an environment around this split which would make it very easy for Communism to gain power. "We must", said Mr. Soule, "offer Germany something better than the Russians".

Lit Seminar Tuesday Night

Harry Duncan, director of the Cumington Press, will give a reading of his poetry and of his original translations Tuesday night at 8:00 in Franklin Living Room.

Mr. Duncan, who was born in Iowa, started out with Katrine Frazer as an apprentice in the Cumington School of Arts and became director after her death. He has run the organization jointly with Paul Williams for the past eight years.

Work of Mr. Duncan's has appeared in such magazines as the Hudson Review of Literature, the Sewanee Review and the Partisan Review. Recently he won the YMHA prize given out by the poetry center of which J. M. Brinnan is the head. Mr. Duncan's translations include writings of Baudelaire, the Apollinaire by Rimbaud and the first canto of Dante's Purgatorio.

Theatre Benefit Clears Over \$4000

The College benefit of "The Moon is Blue" held last Thursday, May 17, cleared \$4,355.31, for the scholarship fund, more than was expected by the administration and Mrs. Mortimer, president of the Alumni Association. Original estimates were for \$3,000.

Because of the success of the venture, Miss Boman said that a theatre benefit will be held again. A number of people from the college attended the performance, including Mr. and Mrs. Brockway.

John Atherton's Paintings Extreme But Rewarding

by Elizabeth Ivory

Looking at the John Atherton show in the Commons Lounge the other day I was puzzled by his extremes between realistic detail and abstracted design, which at times verged on being disturbingly inconsistently.

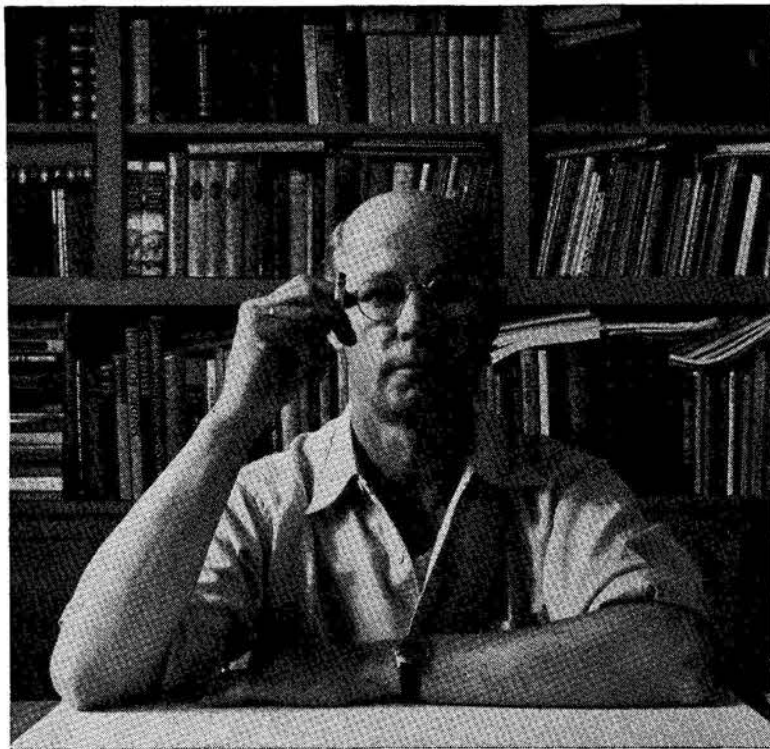
In several cases these extremes exist within the same canvas dividing the style. For example, the minute handling of the barns against the large sweeps of sky and snow in No. 9.

Luckily there were several other observers in the room at the time and they made some comments which clarified the situation for me, so I will take the liberty of including a few of their remarks. In the first place it was pointed out that Mr. Atherton is a prominent painter of very realistic magazine covers. Because of this training in exact duplication and a very observant eye, when the artist tries to draw on his increas-

ing sense of all over design he is forced by habit to carry the detail too far, as in the right side of the road landscape, No. 1, and the central section of the colorful abstraction of an oriental shoe, No. 10.

On the other hand, in some of his more controlled works like the earth abstraction, No. 5, his sense of detail has grown into a superb sense of texture which gives a quality of luminescent movement. It was also mentioned that Mr. Atherton works with prepared grounds and expertly handles washes of oil and casein which may account for the vibrance of even his most subtle palettes.

Personally, I like Mr. Atherton's work very much and since I find my own work confused by the problems of balancing detail against all over design, I have found this exhibit extremely rewarding.



JOHN ATHERTON

The Black Legion Suggestive of Nazism

One night in May, 1936, a Detroit WPA worker was riddled with slugs. A fortnight later the nation learned that the victim had been a member of a new 'night shirt' organization called the Black Legion—an offshoot of the Ku Klux Klan. The activities of the Black Legion, it was disclosed, centered in Michigan but the membership extended into neighboring states. The size and ramifications of the secret society were not so large as it was first supposed, but its influence was considerable, and its program—anti-Catholic, anti-Jew, and anti-Negro—was symptomatic of the social demoralization produced by the depression. The Black Legion, dedicated to terror and violence, suggested the pathological brutality of Nazism, and its alleged connection with politics and industry seemed to strengthen the analogy. After the prosecution and conviction of the murderers, the organization disappeared, but the kind of bigotry and race-hatred it reflected still remains. We know more today than we did then about the make-up of the 'authoritarian personality' but, as the **Nation** declared at the time, we shall not be rid of movements like the Black Legion "until we have rid America of insecurity and fear".

Monday, May 28, "The Black Legion" will be the subject of the Crisis lecture by Morris Janowitz, who is a sociologist at the University of Chicago. Professor Janowitz has done extensive work in the field and has interviewed sixty or more of the Fascist leaders. He is expected to interpret the relationship of "The Black Legion" with other movements of violence, protest, and frustration appearing in the great depression, and the importance of their appearance in a democratic society.

The Presentation of Mozart's Great Mass A Memorable Experience

Last Sunday was a memorable day for many of us at Bennington. Mozart's "Great Mass in C Minor" was performed by the Bennington Chorus. The Bennington College orchestra, members of the Desoff Choirs, faculty and friends of Bennington College, and guest soloists, all masterfully coordinated and conducted by Mr. Boepple. The soloists were: Ellen Faull, soprano; Dorothy Stahl, mezzo-soprano; Leslie Chabay, tenor; and Paul Matthen, bass.

The performance was an admirable interpretation of a difficult work by an amateur group. The mass, consisting of five parts, often reaches great musical and emotional heights, and depths. This was well done, and the contrasts were felt by both the audience as well as those performing. Those of us that did participate in the performance had an experience we shall not forget. Performing such magnificent music under such brilliant direction has been a privilege.

E. A.

The Help Drive, which was held Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, has only produced \$310.93, as opposed to the \$750.00 we have to have. One of the only ways of realizing this goal is that every student give \$2.50. The following amounts have been collected:

Leigh	\$53.25
Kilpatrick	38.77
Stokes-Stanford	33.66
Canfield	30.00
Franklin	29.00
McCullough	21.50
Bingham	20.25
Welling	14.50
Woolley	10.00
Dewey	6.00
Staff	35.00
Faculty	19.00

We have had no reports from either Booth or Swan House.

The Drive is not closed. The following houses have pledged money:

Kilpatrick	25.50
McCullough	15.00
Bingham	12.50
Franklin	7.00

If we are to have a foreign student at Bennington next year the houses and members of the Community who have not contributed must do so. The advantage of having a foreign student on campus for the last two years should warrant a successful drive.

'Personality And Behavior Disorder' Visits Mental Hosp.

The members of the Personality and the Behavior Disorder Class, led by Mr. Sperling and two interested (in psychology) young men, made a Saturday morning trip to the Brattleboro Retreat. The Retreat is a privately owned mental institution, which also handles state cases.

Upon arrival at the institution, which by the way, is composed of numerous brick buildings set in very well-cared-for grounds, the group was met by Dr. Dingman, one of the eight members of the staff. The institution itself cares for some seven hundred patients, both chronic and acute. The acute patients live in dormitories or private rooms, depending on the illness and the type of care they are to receive. There is a dining room which is attractive and neat for every dormitory.

The class was also shown the occupational therapy building and the Rec Hall. The patients put on dances and dramatic shows there for their own enjoyment. The class was not shown through the wards where the dangerously ill patients are kept because of possible shock to either the patient or to the members of the class.

After this tour the class was led into a conference room where five patients, showing different types of mental illness: simple schizophrenia, mental deficiency, advanced brain deterioration, paranoid schizophrenia with delusions of grandeur, and manic psychosis, came in and talked to the class. The patients were chosen on the basis of the types of illness they had, the possible effect that such an experience might have upon them, and their willingness to help in such a case. After

(Continued on Page 4)

The Bennington Weekly

Published by Students of Bennington College

Member
Intercollegiate Press

Friday, May 25, 1951

Editor Susan Liebman
 Editorial Board—Betsy Field, Suki Rayner, Nan Offray, Lorraine Lubart
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SUBSCRIPTION RATES

On Campus \$1.40 Per Term—\$2.75 Per Year
 Off Campus \$1.50 Per Term—\$3.00 Per Year

If not enough money is raised to have a foreign student on campus next year no one in particular will suffer for it. The foreign student under consideration has not been notified so she will not know what she is being deprived of. No student who has failed to give to Community Chest will be punished, coerced or in any other way be directly affected by her lack of responsibility.

However, it doesn't speak very well for Bennington if after two years of such a project the Community gets so bored with it that they are too complacent to reach into their pockets, too lazy to write out a check when they are requested to do so. Somehow we envision an empty pen lying on a desk, a check book in someone else's room, and the owner of both comfortably reading a book from which she can't bear to tear herself away when the student collector comes around. We would entitle this picture the law of inertia.

Last term the voice students under the direction of Madame Stueckgold, gave a very entertaining performance of the first part of Humperdink's operetta *Hansel and Gretel*. The original schedule called for a performance of the second half sometime this term. Now this plan has been abandoned.

Because this was an unusual undertaking and its completion was looked forward to by many we would like to voice the regret of the Community that the operetta will not be performed. Work of this magnitude is not entered into or withdrawn from lightly and so, while we respect the decision, we sincerely hope that the operetta will be performed even if in a less ambitious form than was originally planned.

The Midterm Evaluations Of A Puzzled Student

Realizing our duty to the public, and as conscientious citizens of this Community, we hereby submit, at the risk of coming too close to the truth, the midterm evaluations of a student who regrettably must remain unnamed. **Psychological Imputations of the Modern Mind**

So far this term I have not had much chance to observe the quality of X's work. She doesn't talk in class and no papers have yet been assigned.

She appears to me to be a rather mature girl, and although she has not as yet actively participated in class discussion, nevertheless I can see by the expression of her eyes, particularly the eyebrows, that she follows discussion closely and is gradually taking a greater and greater interest.

From talking to her other teachers, I do not doubt her intelligence and look forward eagerly to the time when she says her first word.

The Language of Literature

To the extent that X, in terms of her background, refrains from using overly symbolic thematic images in her creative writing and sustains her independent critical work, she isn't doing too badly.

Dreams and Reality

X takes her work too seriously. I say this advisedly because she lives on top of my apartment and I hear her typing all night long. I would suggest that she get a lighter touch.

As for her work in the course—Her hypothesis concerning development was excellent and ambitiously conceived and she did a very workmanlike and mature job in disproving it. I feel, therefore, that she has progressed.

The Dialectic Approach to The War of 1812

I feel that X has taken too many week-ends. I noticed last week that she has, to use a colloquial expression, been pinned. It is too early to foresee what effect this will have on her work in this course.

Reminder From Judicial Comm.

The Judicial Committee would like to remind the Community of Section A under II of the Standards and Rules, which reads:

"Members of the Community are to avoid appearing conspicuous in matters of dress both because of outside opinion and Community standards."

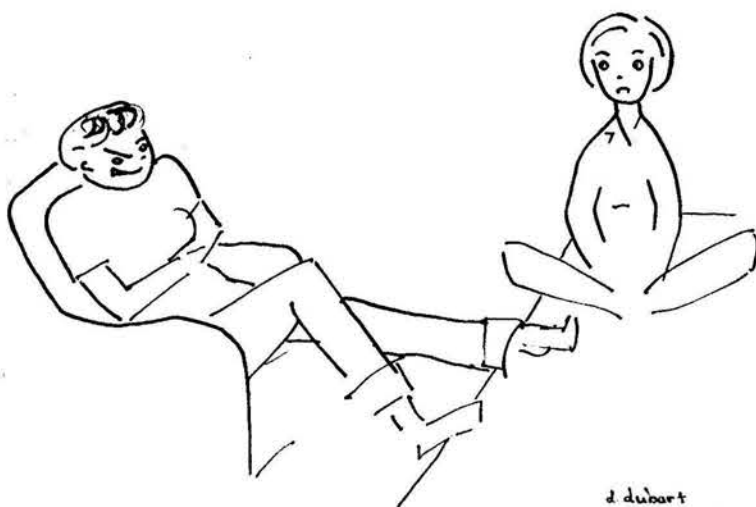
This sufficiently clarifies the reasons why students are asked not to wear blue jeans in Bennington, at the State Line and other local restaurants.

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So you see, I don't want you to tell me who put the worms in my bed so that I would know who to hurt or anything. I'm interested purely in the broader, psychological implications of the thing.

Senior Projects

With senior projects coming due soon, a preliminary canvass of Canfield girls was made to see what the prospective June graduates were choosing for their major projects.

Allison Brewer tested thirty girls on campus on the hypothesis that knowledge of one's interests is a component of maturity. The tests she gave, including Maturity Age, Rorschach, Kuder Preference record, measured maturity correlated against degree of knowledge of interest. She found the correlation negligible. Laurel Melnik is doing a discussion on underlying causes of juvenile delinquency and its treatment by the Youth Service Board in Massachusetts.

Barbara Allen is designing a high school which is suitable for North Bennington and Bennington which, after school hours, will be turned into a community center for the neighboring communities. On more of a thesis project is Doty Pearlman's paper. She is doing a study of certain principles of human dignity violated by anti-subversive legislation proposed or enacted during the last ten years. Carol Spence is doing a public administration case study exemplified by the Vermont Free Library Commission. It is based on research and interviews she did during this Non-Resident Term with the libraries. Martha Holt's project is an experimental behavior study of white rats. She is trying to reproduce a behavior pattern discovered by an experi-

Notices

Monday, June 4—Drama Workshop: 4:15 (theatre). Mr. Fowlie will speak on Jean Cocteau (his career and his particular contribution to ballet, cinema, theatre, poetry and criticism). Open meeting.

Miss Shelly, who has been touring in Italy, France and Sweden this term, will be back in her office on June 4. She has been in New York for the past few weeks.

New Alumni Board Of Directors

A Board of Directors has been chosen this year by the Alumni Association for the first time. The Board was one of the changes set forth in the by-laws made by the organization last term.

Chosen for one term are: Frederica Cornell Macphail '37, Kathleen Harriman Mortimer '40, Ellen King Russell '47.

Chosen for two terms: Ellen Voorhees Hauschka '36, Lila Franklin Fields '37, Katrina Van Tassel Wurerth '39, Margaret Larson '44.

A president, vice president, and secretary will be chosen shortly. Mrs. Mortimer was formerly head of the Association.

mental psychologist and to create another behavior pattern through a rearrangement of the original apparatus used.

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It is my eye I seek,
but I am blind and weary of the
chase.
I, who am blind,
hunt for an eye
and am hunted.
Anita Maximilian.

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Miss Hopkins Pres. Of Town AAUW

Miss Hopkins, librarian, was elected president of the Bennington Branch of the American Association of University Women last Monday. Membership in the local organization numbers about fifty.

Miss Hopkins, who graduated from Vassar, said that the present emphasis of the AAUW is on procuring international scholarships. Originally the organization was devoted primarily to further women's education, which was a much more controversial issue when the AAUW started approximately eighteen years ago. At the present time the organization accredits women's colleges and sees that girls get equal educational privileges in co-ed colleges. It has done, comments Miss Hopkins, a great deal toward raising the standards of education for women.

Also members of the Bennington Branch are Mrs. Wahnus, Rebecca Stickney, Miss Boynton, Miss Duncan, Miss Rudd and Mrs. Murphy.

Don Romano was awakened by a shriek of terror as Pat Barton came running into her room at 3:00 a. m., the other morning. The cause of the anxiety was attributed to three bee stings. The evidence was not exhibited to your reporter, who can well believe the intensity of these stings since she, herself, in an unguarded moment, stepped without delicacy upon one of those insects. There is no need to elaborate as I feel that the bees have made their point.

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FUR STORAGE

Photoplay Searches For Talent

A national search for dramatic talent among young women high school graduates under 25 years of age, the winner to study for two years at the famous Pasadena Playhouse College of Theatre Arts, was announced today by Photoplay Magazine.

The winner will receive, in addition to the scholarship, room, board, books, student fees, an allowance for spending money and transportation from her home to the college. The college grants those students who have had two or more years of college prior to entering the Playhouse, a B. A. degree in Dramatic Arts.

Three semi-finalists of this contest will visit the Pasadena Playhouse this September, as the guests of Photoplay, for the selection of the scholarship student from auditions held before the following board of judges:

Ethel Barrymore, actress.
Gregory Peck, actor.
Joseph Mankiewicz, writer-director.
Stanley Kramer, producer.
Thomas Browne Henry, Dean of the Playhouse.

Lyle Rooks, Hollywood editor, Photoplay.

The contest consists of a series of four screenings. During August, six hundred young women, selected on the basis of questionnaires and letters, voice recordings and pictures, will appear before one of the 64 local auditions boards throughout the country. Serving on these boards will be representatives from the local radio and television stations, newspapers, colleges, and The National Thespian Society (an organization devoted to the advancement of dramatic art in the secondary schools).

After the selection of the winner at Pasadena, the two runners-up will appear on radio or television programs and will be interviewed by the casting directors of three major studios. The hundred top-running contestants will be brought to the attention of major radio and television networks, producers, directors, little theatre groups, stock companies and modelling agencies.

Complete details and rules for entering this contest will be found in both the June and July Photoplays. The June issue is now on the newsstands.

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Romance De La Luna Luna Incomplete Dramatization

Thursday afternoon at Dance Workshop Dorothy Jayne Miller presented an adaptation of Garcia Lorca's Romance De La Luna Luna as a part of her Senior Project. The characters were as follows: The Child—Sonora Tschabasov, The Moon—Dorothy Jayne Miller, and the Gypsies—Ruth Leibling, Barbara Pavell, Sylvia Saltman, Helen Shapiro, and Joan Sheckley.

The appearance of the Moon between the curtains was brilliantly contrived and the lighting was excellent, but, unfortunately, the production as a whole lacked depth—or perhaps a completion of the theme. It is difficult to say just where the performance was lacking. The choreography—and especially the movements of the Child—seemed stiff and without meaning. It is assumed that these movements were intended to reveal the simplicity of the Child. On the second page of the program one could find the interpretation of the presentation of the poem. This interpretation did not seem to be present on the stage. If it was not intended to be thus, why was the explanation on the program at all? I was a slightly confused member of the audience because after being terribly impressed by the unusual and clever setting I sat eagerly expectant for some kind of movement in the adaptation itself. This would indicate that the intention of the production was NOT to say anything but merely to present a pretty picture, or that the projection went no further than the proscenium arch. If they had something to say—it seemed a rather mute attempt, and a poor choice of material when Lorca has so very much to say.

An Experiment in Lyric Theatre . . .

The above was the initial response to the play but it is only fair—in an attempt of this kind—to present the actual intentions behind the presentation. This production was an experiment in Lyric Theatre . . . an attempt to integrate Dance, Music and Drama so that the desired effect was to arrive at a fine fusion and balance of all three—one not outweighing the other. The audience was meant to enjoy the fairyland quality of the production and not to be conscious of an over-emphasis on the symbolism to the degree that it would detract from the over-all enjoyment of the play. It is interesting to note here that this was the only ballet

Lorca wrote which was produced as a ballet in Madrid.

In viewing the production (conscious of the above information), one can honestly say that this was an admirable attempt and one worthy of attention. It most certainly must have been a challenge which presented many problems and provoked a great deal of adjustment.

Dorothy Miller, as the Moon, played the most effective and outstanding part of the production while the dancing of the Gypsies seemed less defined and impressive. The music which was composed by Elizabeth Larsen was very good and certainly added a touching quality to the production.

Lyrics for the Child's songs are from Lorca's "Romancero Gitano"

Choreography—Joan Pauley.

Light designer—Renee Marron.

Musicians—Ruth Leibling, Doris Robbins, flute; Lyn Karol, cello; Ruth Miller, violin; Sandra Warrick, drum.

Light Crew—Judy Beach, Annie Briggs, Marty Dow.

N. O.

A Yale Daily News reporter asks the same old questions about the Bennington co-op program and its effects upon the girls at the Vermont school. "Don't they run wild with no rules limiting weekends, cuts, and sign-in times?", the paper asks. "Aren't Bennington girls inclined to be immoral?"

Concludes the staffer: All is fine at the Vermont school because "the democracy of the community life gives Bennington its distinctive atmosphere . . ." Sound familiar?

Your

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Short Winded?

Short winded? Generally out of condition? If so Rec Council has the answer—sign up on the Commons bulletin board for the tennis tournament. Singles, student doubles or faculty-student doubles, take your choice. You can enter one or all three.

The sooner you sign up, the sooner the tournament can be played. Last year Rec Council gave out bottles of champagne; rumors this year run along the same lines concerning prizes.

Rec Council also has a square dance scheduled, complete with orchestra and caller, which will be held within the next two weeks. Cost is 25c, and will cover beer, coca-cola and other refreshments. The dance will be in the Carriage Barn.

Hoosick Falls Standard Press

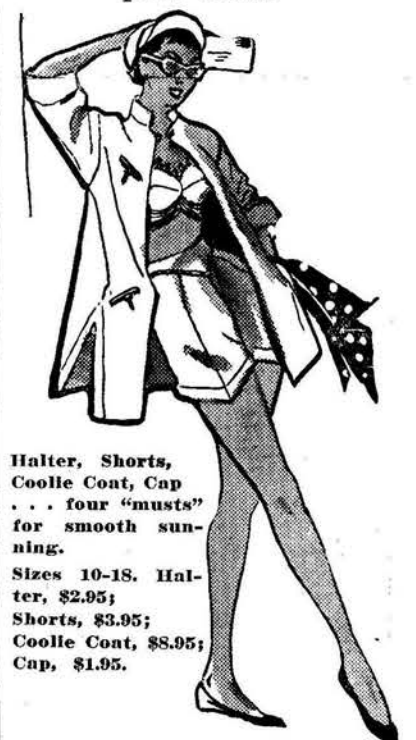
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RALEIGH

Theme Of The Fashion Show

(Continued from Page 1)

Hubert, Suki Rayner, Joan Rice, Helen Husted, Virginia Mackoy, Phyllis Meili, Wanda Peck, and Helen Schenker. Dorothy Miller and Mrs. Morris Oliver will narrate "A Day at the Country Club", and the Mesdames Thomas Brockway, Robert Alvin, Howard Nemerov, Daniel Shapiro, Frank H. Stanbrough and Miss Irene Hasenclever will hostess at the Armory.

Special credit and thanks must be given to Mrs. Stanbrough whose efficiency contributed greatly to the success of the program, to Mrs. Shapiro for her idea of relating the mood of the background music to the dress and time of day, to Mrs. Alvin whose "telephone method" is the key to the success of the ticket sales promotion, and to all others who have contributed their time and effort.

GENERAL STARK THEATRE

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FRI.-SAT., MAY 25-26

"THE MUDLARK"

Irene Dunn and Alec Guinness

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MAY 29-31

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A mistake may be made in putting in the ring.

You do not know where the fire is located. Therefore, the assumption must be made that it is in your area until reported definitely that that is not so.

How many people actually went outside their buildings Wednesday night?

Were doors, windows, and lights checked before leaving?

How many students checked to see that the assistants in each house were attending to their jobs? If this was not done, how much initiative can we muster up?

THERE WILL BE A DRILL IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE!!!

Room Deadline Next Friday

The deadline for room assignments is June 4. By this time final decision on room changes should be made. In the selection of rooms, those living in a house have precedence over those who want to move in. Those already living in a room have precedence over those who might want the room. In the selection of free rooms, seniors have precedence over juniors, who have it over sophomores.

MENTAL HOSPITAL

(Continued from Page 1)

each patient left the room discussion took place giving graphic illustrations of the complete loss of contact with reality, irresponsibility, and inability for self management that typifies the psychoses and makes commitment to an institution imperative.

All who participated in the tour felt that it was most educational and interesting. Another tour is being planned sometime in June.

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Gore Vidal Speaks At Literary Beer Party

by Virginia Mackoy

At the old faculty house in Williamstown on May 18, Gore Vidal, novelist, spoke at a literary beer party. The discussion was held in the faculty lounge, where thirty people gathered to explore the current theories of the novel.

John Rogers opened with an introduction naming the six novels, one of which is *City in a Pillar*, written by Gore Vidal. Following this Mr. Vidal spoke briefly, saying that the novel is moving away from its function of story telling towards that of showing the subjective self. Since movies and television have taken over story telling the novelist is forced into a new field.

The first question which arose concerned Faulkner. One of the literature professors contended that Faulkner's works were great studies in irony. Mr. Vidal objected, replying that Faulkner was a serious novelist and that he could see no humor or irony in his novels. From that point the ice was broken and the discussion ranged from literature written in Egyptian times to that of 1951.

Mr. Vidal said that many writers formed a novel through a series of short stories, while others concerned themselves with well written passages in imagery. Now that readers turn to movies for excitement, Mr. Vidal, continued, the future novel will become more private, such as modern poetry has become today. From his point of view, the message carried by a novel is a vision or an attitude of one's own, unconsciously reflecting the issues of one's time. The only difference between a short story and a novel, according to Mr. Vidal, is the length.

He spoke of many books and writers, until someone finally asked, "Mr. Vidal, do you think there is anything worth reading today?"

In response, Mr. Vidal pointed out that there were many different approaches in criticism. If one uses the whole of English literature as a background Norman Mailer may seem of small importance, but viewed against the writer of his decade, Mailer would figure largely. In particular he thinks that Paul Bowles is good. He condemned Hemingway's *For Whom the Bell Tolls* as too strived for, contrived and the language forced. Notwithstanding this, he feels that of all the writers Hemingway had the most influence over his own earliest works.

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When asked what he thought of English departments, Mr. Vidal said that in order to justify their existence they must have some theory which they adhere to, for if they did not chaos would take over. However, he is against set theories in literature. In backing up his statement he asked, "How can you compare an American work to an English piece since the culture of one country is so much younger than the other?"

Another question asked was: What is the function of a writer in the world today?

Answer: A writer hasn't a function. The work stands as Religion, our manifestation of the human spirit.

Then he was questioned: What are you, as a writer, communicating?

Mr. Vidal seemed to evade the main point. He said that he feels in communication with other writers. Pursuing this idea later, he went on to the problem of publishing a book. To quote Mr. Vidal: "Believe me, there is nothing more personal than writing a book, except publishing."

He advised a personal interview with all publishers to whom the writer wished to sell his work. He also advocated that the writer read Byron's letter to Shelley about Keat's death.

Politics came up when Mr. Vidal volunteered that the novel can not survive in a Socialist world because it is concerned with the individual.

When asked: What is it like to be admired for the wrong reasons?, Mr. Vidal responded: "Charming. There are no wrong reasons". Mr. Vidal ended the discussion saying, "Posterity is accidental".

Marriages

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Mary Ellen Rhodes to Gerald Hearndon on April 14.

Barbara Smith to Dennis Mahoney.

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