

# THE BEACON

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## Carnegie Institute Grant for American Values Program

A gift from the Carnegie Institute has made possible the formation of an American Values program at Bennington. A preliminary committee, consisting of Miss Schlabach, Mr. Ford, Mr. Garceau, Mr. Lewis, and Mr. Soule, has been working with Mr. Aaron, head of American Studies Program at Smith College, to establish an outline for the course.

### One Course Will Be Offered

According to Mr. Aaron, an interest in American Civilization has sprung up in colleges within the past ten years. In most schools it has taken the form of an entire field of study. At Bennington, however, one course will be offered which will attempt to bring together the various aspects of the American scene. This will include history, political theory, economics, literature, education, religion, and philosophy. These aspects will be studied within the framework of historical periods.

The committee has been meeting for four weeks and at present is occupied in working out a program and narrowing down the material for the course.

Invited by President Burkhardt to aid in organizing the American Values program, Mr. Aaron took his doctorate in American Civilization at Harvard, and for two years was connected with the American Civilization program there. At present he is an associate professor of English and a lecturer in government at Smith College where he also is head of the American Studies Program.

### Meeting of the Board of Trustees

#### Board of Trustees Holds Fall Meeting

At its fall meeting over the weekend of October 1 and 2, the Board of Trustees ratified faculty and staff appointments, approved sabbatical leaves, and heard reports on the financial condition of the college.

Those granted sabbatical leaves for the spring terms are Mr. Holt and Mrs. Foster.

#### Gottlieb New Committee Chairman

Mr. Leo Gottlieb accepted the chairmanship of the Board's Committee on Financial Needs. He outlined detailed

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### Public Relations Department To Tour Country

At the end of October, the admissions department, aided by Miss Stickney, Alumnae Secretary, plans to begin an extensive public relations program. Miss Shelley, Miss Boynton and Miss Stickney have each planned trips designed to cover most of the country.

Miss Boynton will travel through the South and the West, Miss Shelley, the East, and Miss Stickney, the Mid-west. Their objective is to familiarize various secondary schools with Bennington and at the same time interview prospective students for the fall term.

This program was in effect before the war and has now been resumed and

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### New Faculty Approve Bennington Educational Methods and Aims

#### Arnold Sundgaard

When Mr. Arnold Sundgaard, the newest member of the drama faculty, was approached about Bennington College, he began by saying, "It's got one of the best libraries I've seen but one of the noisiest collections of oil burners!"

The author of many plays, Mr. Sundgaard has studied and taught playwriting at several universities, besides working for such organizations as the Rockefeller Foundation, the Dramatists' Guild, and Theatre Incorporated, of which he was a member of the Board of Directors. More recently he finished the libretto of an opera to which Douglas Moore, of *The Devil and Daniel Webster* fame, wrote the score. Now he has started to compose a musical play, "a show without a line of girls," with music by Alec Wilder.

Mr. Sundgaard considers it a welcome opportunity to teach at Bennington College, and further added, "I can truly say that in my short time here I have found that because the students are so open minded, they have unusual perceptive qualities and highly cultivated senses of responsibility and concentration. My interest has always been in the amalgamation of music and dance in the theatre and drama, and with the aid of those students and faculty in both fields, I feel that we can do some good experimental work."

#### Barbara Golfing

Aside from the fact that this is Mrs. Barbara Golfing's first year as an instructor of Verse Writing and Language and Literature in our college, her face and her writings are not unfamiliar on campus. Last year, in her more domestic moments, she might have been seen keeping house for Mr. Golfing and their four black cats. However, she continued with her prose and poetry writing, of which there is a published collection entitled *The Well*. It should be noted that under the name of Barbara Gibbs, many of Mrs. Golfing's other poems, translations, and reviews were published in various magazines. In 1944, she competed in a novelette contest sponsored by the *Persian Review*, and her story was a prize-winning entry.

When frankly asked whether teaching at Bennington College measured up to her expectations, Mrs. Golfing re-

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## Preparations for November 5 Dance

Gala plans are afoot for the annual Fall Weekend. For weeks now we have watched the anxious Rec. Council trio huddled together over last cups of coffee at dinner, meeting at odd hours at the middle window seat in Commons and hunched together on the library steps. Always they have been scratching away at notes on three ever present official looking clip boards. At last they have announced the schedule for the weekend:

#### Friday Night:

Movie in the Carriage Barn—then suggested individual or house parties.

#### Saturday:

Outdoor picnic at 1 P. M.

Afternoon cocktail parties in both Canfield and Booth.

Dinner.

The Octet and a Yale singing group will entertain before dance.

The DANCE from ten until two in the carriage Barn with an eight piece orchestra supplying the music. Punch and refreshments will be served.

Arrangements have been made with the State Line to stay open after the dance.

And all this for only \$8.00. It will not be possible to buy separate tickets for any of these functions with the exception of the dance itself. This ticket will be \$4.00.

Nothing has been planned for Sunday but undoubtedly groups will congregate for the usual parties and baseball games.

The Rec. Council has appointed auxiliary committee heads to help them for the weekend:

Tickets: Marie O'Donnell

Decorations: Anne Chatfield and Chris Curtis

Cocktail Party: Joan Olmsted, Lou Kingsbury, Suzy Peck

Dance Refreshments: Marty Holt

Come one, come all. The more people attend the better the party, and already many girls have bought tickets, so football games have nothing on us as far as Fun is concerned. Whoopee!

### Campus News

With people just returned to Bennington from summer stock, Europe, the country vacation and the city job, there seems to be a dearth of campus news. We were, however, able to pick up a few items about the new marriages and engagements, the whereabouts of last year's seniors and, of course, the latest tips on fashions and adjectives from the freshmen.

Bobbie Goldberg and Rita Gillette are at Harvard graduate school studying architecture and chemistry respectively. Helen Frankenthaler, Nadya Margulies and Sonja Rudicoff are also working for their Masters degrees at Columbia.

Carol Vreeland is soaking up the Bohemian atmosphere of San Francisco and at the same time working in a lawyer's office. Fay West has started her training program with *Time* and *Life*. At the end of six months she will be given an assignment abroad.

Anne Goodman is studying music in New York and Thumper Whitely is traveling in Europe.

This summer Marianne Byk was married to Seymour Schnell. She will study at Columbia this winter and hopes to return to Bennington for the spring term. Priscilla Taft was married to Robert Palo. Taffy is continuing her studies at Stanford. The West Side of campus has four other September marriages to report: Olga Landeck to Charles E. Heming, Jr., Irma Hegerman to Peter Thexton, Teddy Tholen

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### Medium Rare, Please!

Solveig Peterson is the lucky winner of the Two-Free-Steak Dinners contest put on by the Beacon. She and her date, Roy Wikstrom, from Dartmouth will collect her sumptuous winnings Friday, the 11th of November at Raleigh's Restaurant, compliments of Jimmie Raleigh! We'll be thinking of their luscious steaks as we squeeze lemon on our Friday fare.



THE BEACON

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Corrections

In the October 6 issue of The Beacon three errors were made. The corrections are as follows:

1. Charitas Frick, German scholarship student, was not brought here by a "campus D. P. drive." Her scholarship, paid for by the Bennington Scholarship Fund, was awarded by the Institute of International Education in New York City, which was cooperating with the U. S. Military Government in Germany.
2. Martha Humphries is not the "First Student in the Bennington Graduate Department." There is no graduate department at Bennington. A graduate of Syracuse University, she is a special student studying music at Bennington.
3. Last year the Bennington members of Mademoiselle's College Board chose "Vogue and Vanity" as the clothing shop most popular with the students at this college. "Fashion Fair" dated a close second in this vote.

Notes on New Octet

Through the flats and sharps of it, the Octet has been assembled since early September. The new members are Kit Carson, soprano; Nancy Price, 2nd soprano, Joan Olmsted and Stephanie Chamberlain, 1st altos and Ann White bass. The Octet has sung several times in the dining rooms and plans to appear formally for the first time during the Dance weekend. Every evening behind "Do Not Disturb" signs the Octet meets to rehearse, each girl conscious of the existing dogmas: listen to the others, don't go flat, learn your notes, don't go flat, pay attention to dynamics; don't go flat and so on, andante cantabile. The plans include such forgotten favorites as "Devil Moon," "You Go To My Head" and "Passe."

The Octet would like to announce that if Providence and the Publishers are with them, the record albums should be ready in early November. The cost price will be \$3.75. These albums will be available at the cooperative store.

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Negro Educational Role in America

Dr. William J. Trent, the executive director of the United Negro Educational Fund, spoke at Bennington College on October 17th. He is a graduate of Livingstone College, the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Chicago. Before going to New York to work for the Fund, Dr. Trent did racial relations work with Harold Ickes in the State Department.

Problems Confronting Negroes

The theme of his speech was "Some Problems Confronting Negroes in Higher Education". According to Dr. Trent the main problems are a) Negroes getting accepted into college, b) Once in college, students and faculty accepting Negroes as fellow students and allowing them equal academic opportunities, c) Difficulty in gaining respect as a well-educated person trying to set up business in a particular field when graduated, d) The present financial status of Negro colleges.

The United Negro Educational Fund was inaugurated six years ago by Dr. Patterson, who was at that time president of Tuskegee Institute. The money raised is for 31 Negro colleges which have little or no endowment. This organization raises an average of 1,200,000 dollars yearly from various sources such as large business corporations and student groups.

Yale First Donator

The first student body to appropriate money to the fund was Yale University, which has been doing so every year since. Dr. Trent said, "we have found that students in these 31 Negro colleges are greatly impressed by the fact that students of America's great institutions are willing to help them in their efforts to secure a college education. This knowledge is even more important to them than the money itself."

Allocation of Funds

The money that is collected by the fund is divided into three parts. 45% is divided equally among the colleges, 45% is divided according to the financial status of the individual college, and the remaining 10% is distributed according to enrollment. The colleges receive anywhere from 5 to 20% more money in this way than if they raised the money individually. One requirement of the organization is that the money be used only for improving the curriculum which includes providing for student scholarships and teachers' pay. It may not, however, be used for improving the physical appearance of the college.

When asked why he had chosen the Bennington community to speak to, Dr. Trent replied that he had spoken here two years ago and that he found the students genuinely interested and responsive.

In closing, Dr. Trent said, "In the general efforts that are being made to improve racial relations in America and to break down the barriers between racial groups, Negro colleges are making significant contributions by demonstrating to America that Negro students, given an equal opportunity, can measure up to the requirements just as any other group. The primary problem with these colleges is to secure adequate support, so that their operations will be efficient and their curriculum sufficient to the requirements of American life."

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Off Campus News

Ben Belitt, who is on leave of absence for the fall term, is a resident poet at the University of Virginia and is finishing his PhD thesis on Katherine Mansfield. He plans to go to Italy in the spring and will return to college next fall as a member of the Literature faculty.

On October 13 Thomas Brockway sailed for England where he will work on a project concerning rationing under the direction of The National Resources Planning Board. He is on sabbatical leave for the fall term and will be back teaching Political Economy and History in the spring.

Martha Jane Marshall is studying at the University of Michigan during her leave of absence. She plans to get her PhD in Economics, and then will resume her teaching in that field at Bennington in the spring term.

Malcolm Cowley was at Bennington temporarily on a short appointment last term. At present, he is lecturing at different colleges. In January he plans to go to the University of Washington for the winter term. In the past, he has held the position of Literary Editor of the New Republic, and has written for the New Yorker and Life. He is now Literary Advisor for the Viking Press.

Nora Hasenclever Montesinos was married in July, and with her husband is now in residence at the University of California, where she will remain until the spring term. At that time she will return to Bennington to teach Russian and Spanish.

Kurt Anderson, a previous member of the Political Economy Faculty, is at present studying the Rorschach and other psychological tests in order to find out how they might be used in resolutions of managing and labor conflicts.

Kenneth Burke, who is here every other year in the Literature Faculty is now at the University of Chicago in the Humanities Faculty Program.

James Jackson, former member of the Literature Faculty, is working with Theodore Roethke who was at one time also on the Bennington Literature Faculty. Mr. Jackson is teaching a course in American Literature.

Ernst Levy, who taught in the Music Faculty, is at present teaching piano at the University of Chicago.

Stanley Kunitz, a former member of the Literature Faculty, is now at the New York State Teachers College in Potsdam where he is teaching a poetry workshop course. Mrs. Kunitz is teaching there, also.

Max Kampelman is on a year's leave of absence. During this time, he is serving as assistant to Senator Hubert H. Humphreys of Minnesota. He expects to return to Bennington next year in the field of Political Economy.

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will be great"

Patty Powell

Margaret Webster Production of 'The Taming of the Shrew' Presented in Bennington

The Margaret Webster Shakespeare Company, on tour in its Concert-Lecture Series, gave their production of "The Taming of the Shrew" in the Bennington Armory October 22. Star-ring players were Louis Horton, Kendall Clark and David Lewis, all of whom are veteran Broadway actors.

Miss Webster, who has been acclaimed one of the most distinguished Shakespearean directors of our time, originated her touring company last year. She organized the company to fill the need for live theater outside of metropolitan areas. In so doing, she aims to recapture something of the position drama once had in the American field of entertainment, and to present Shakespearean drama as living, timeless presentations belonging "not only to the past but also to the present and future." Traveling 40,000 miles last year, the company met with wide acclaim and received the approval of well-known educators and civic leaders.

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### New Faculty Approve Bennington Educational Methods and Aims

(Continued from page 1)

plied, "I enjoy teaching here very much. The girls are responsive and pleasant to work with. I also like the freedom Bennington instructors have to choose the methods and subject matter most congenial to them, though I realize these conditions probably make for the most strenuous kind of teaching there is."

**Mrs. Charity Cannon Willard**

Mrs. Willard left her home and husband upstate at the University of Vermont in order to teach Spanish while her friend, Miss Nora Hasenclever, was away.

As a child, she spent some time in Spain and since then has continued studying and teaching both Spanish and French in this country and in Mexico. A specified interest in the Spanish language brought her to a colony of some eighty families near Montpelier, Vermont, which she visited several times. While there she spoke only Spanish and lived in accord with their customs.

Her familiarity with the policies of Bennington College originally came from her experiences while teaching girls in several kinds of colleges, and through contacts with our language faculty. Last year she also worked with Dorothy Canfield Fisher's papers, a gift to the University of Vermont, many of which mention Bennington.

Thus, when she was invited to teach some Spanish courses here this term, Mrs. Willard was very enthusiastic. She said, "I knew that the classes would be small and the atmosphere conducive to study. It was delightful to see that the students showed such a deep interest in their work. It's fun to teach Spanish, or anything for that matter, to that type of girl who is so clearly representative of Bennington College."

**Thomas Wilcox**

Mr. Wilcox graduated from Amherst in 1942 and went directly into the service as a pilot, first for the U. S. Navy and later for Britain's R. A. F. He spent considerable time in England, returning to get his Master's degree from Harvard. He has been teaching General Education in Cambridge for the

### Public Relations Department To Tour Country

(Continued from page 1)

revised so as to include not only the schools that they have previously visited but also schools that have not been visited before.

An appointment has been made at each school, and upon arrival our representative will either address an assembly of girls or have conferences with individual girls who are interested in Bennington. The functions of the Bennington community standards will be explained so that these girls will get an accurate picture of the college.

Some qualified alumnae are also going to act as representatives of the college elsewhere and interview girls who would not be reached otherwise.

last two years, at the same time working for his PhD. When asked how he liked Bennington, the system of education and the student body, Mr. Wilcox answered with an enthusiastic, "Fine." Later, when asked to elaborate, Mr. Wilcox stated "Bennington achieves what Harvard tries to achieve thru an honest approach to education. I think that the direct and close contact between students and faculty helps a great deal in achieving and maintaining this goal." Bennington's "Language and Literature" is, according to Mr. Wilcox, very similar to Harvard's Basic Composition course. The interview closed with a remark which will endear Mr. Wilcox to Bennington students as long as the college exists. . . . "I think Bennington's students are easily as bright as Harvard's."

**G. Robert Stange**

Mr. Stange is a graduate of Harvard, class of '41. He spent three years in the Navy as Gunnery Officer on the Fleets Admiral's staff in the Pacific. When the war ended Mr. Stange worked for "Little, Brown & Co." where he was Assistant Editor until 1947. He still does scouting and free lance editing for that company. He then returned to Harvard where he was a tutor in History and English Literature for Harvard and Radcliffe undergraduates. Mr. Stange maintained that he has never seen teachers and, he added, students, work so hard and so productively as they do at Bennington.

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## Meeting of the Board of Trustees

(Continued from page 1)

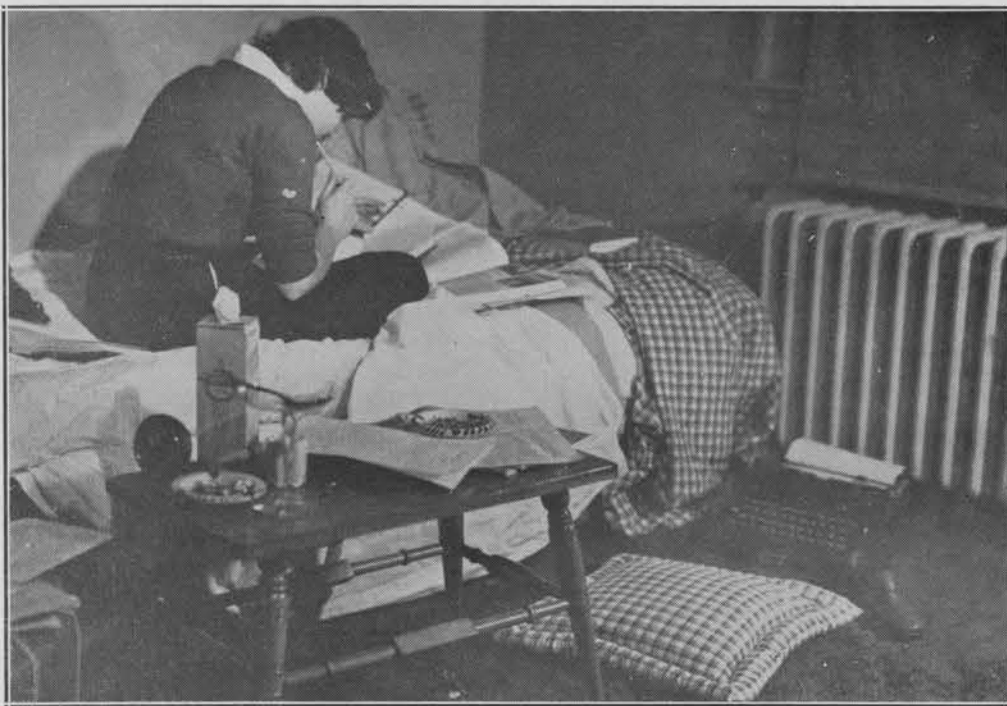
fund raising plans which will be carried out by a group working under his direction in New York, by trustees living in other cities, by alumnae groups, and by the administrative officers of the college.

Mr. Burkhardt reported on the progress made in planning for the American Values Program.

### Board Meets With New Faculty

Saturday afternoon the Board met informally with the new faculty members at Cricket Hill. In the evening they met with the Student Educational Policies Committee at Mr. John McCullough's house.

The trustees present at the meeting were Mrs. George S. Franklin, Chairman; Mr. Charles Dollard, Mrs. William H. Wills, Mr. Levi P. Smith, Mr. Otis T. Bradley, Mrs. John Burling, Mr. John M. Gaus, Mr. Leo Gottlieb, Mrs. Henry Goddard Leach, Mr. John McCullough, Mrs. Ewen MacVeagh, Mrs. Stanley G. Mortimer, Jr., Mr. Philip Price, Mrs. Frank M. Sawtell, Mrs. W. Julian Underwood, and Mr. Caryl Haskins, who was elected at this meeting.



Dearest Mom, I love college more and more every day. You'll be pleased to know that I'm learning how to "organize my work". The professors are so considerate. They give us our term paper assignments weeks ahead of time so that we won't have that awful last minute rush when you have to stay up all night long simply sweating over a typewriter. And then you get run down and catch cold, and your room gets messy and your hair filthy and your disposition utterly unbearable. Well, anyway, my counsellor tells me that I'm beginning to get very well "integrated" into Bennington life . . .

Love,

Me

## Campus News

(Continued from page 1)

to Cole Peyton, and Susie Pierce to Charles Stewart.

Anne Whittier became engaged to James Geier of Cincinnati and Williamstown. They plan to be married right after Ann graduates with the class of '50 in July.

Louise Wynne's engagement to John Corbett was also announced this summer. They will probably be married in December.

## Mixed Chorus Preferred

"Anybody wants a mixed chorus rather than a women's chorus," declared Paul Boepple, distinguished musician and director of the Bennington Mixed Chorus. He pointed out that it is the normal thing to prefer a mixed chorus over a women's chorus, because whereas there are few great works for women's voices alone, the musical literature for mixed voices is extremely rich.

"It was a sort of spontaneous combustion," continued Mr. Boepple when asked how the Mixed Chorus originated. "It happened at the end of last year when we formed a mixed chorus to give Schubert's Mass in G Major for the graduation concert. The idea was a great success."

The Mixed Chorus is composed of students, faculty members and their wives, residents of Bennington and North Bennington, and has just recently had its number supplemented by 9 male voices from Marlboro College. The town residents account for 7 of the members: Mr. and Mrs. Welling, Dr. Flory, Mr. Fleming, Mr. Murphy, Judy Hall, and Mrs. Baker. Membership is limited to those who have previous musical experience, and now consists of 55 voices.

The group is studying "St. John's Passion," and will give it here as a college performance in the spring. Mr. Boepple describes it as one of the great moments of music. In commenting further, he said, "There is very little tradition of performances of such works such as this in this country, whereas in half a dozen European countries they are performed constantly. If it is a success, we will undertake an important work every year."

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