

NEWSLETTER

BENNINGTON COLLEGE

BENNINGTON, VERMONT

November 1963

NEW THIS YEAR

As surely as every Bennington graduate departs "her own person," each incoming class presents a new composite of personalities. Our thirty-second class numbers 128 students, of whom nine are daughters of alumnae and four are Merit Scholars. Sixty-seven prepared for college at public schools, forty-five at independent schools, and sixteen transferred from other colleges. Twenty-five were granted financial aid totaling \$28,500, and seventeen received College loans totaling \$3,500. As a group they scored a mean of 636 in the verbal Scholastic Aptitude Test and 538 in the mathematical. No longer newcomers, their talents, intelligence and experiences are already very much part of our college community life.

ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES

Since the June meeting of the Board three new appointments have been made to the administrative staff and the president's office has been partially reorganized.

In keeping with the Board of Trustees' decision to make a major effort to increase the educational, physical and financial resources of the College, David A. Bergmark has been appointed director of the Office of Development. Since 1961, Mr. Bergmark had been in charge of the Development Office at Union College, Schenectady. A graduate of Harvard College (1934), he was employed by the New York Telephone Company until the war. From 1940 to 1943 he served as an officer in the Naval Reserve in the Electronic Production Division, Bureau of Aeronautics, Washington, D. C., and subsequently worked overseas in charge of public relations and business management for a Congregational mission involving institutions and personnel in Turkey, Greece, Syria and Lebanon.

To support the new development program with public information and to keep other institutions well informed on new practices here, Murry Karmiller has been named acting director of Information Services. The husband of Bennington graduate Barbara Hubbard Karmiller (1957), he was for fourteen years a staff writer at CBS, New York.

Gloria Gil of Bennington replaces Priscilla A. Karb as director of Non-Resident Term Office. A graduate of Bennington (1952), Mrs. Gil has been an active partner with her husband in Bennington Potters (whose ceramics no doubt are well known to you), and she has worked in the pathology laboratory at Putnam Memorial Hospital (1948 to 1951, and again in 1957). Her knowledge of the College, her business experience, her background in art and science and her activity in community affairs are certain to prove helpful to students as they make Non-Resident Term plans.

This year both Harry Pearson, Dean of the Faculty, and Wallace Scott, Dean of Studies, are back in their offices, with Dean Pearson assisted by Edith Stewart. Miss Stewart also will continue as assistant to Mr. Fels in academic matters. Rebecca Stickney has moved to the president's office as assistant for non-academic matters. Alice Miller, former assistant to the director of the Non-Resident Term Office, is now secretary to the president. Shirley Stanwood, who has worked part-time for the Non-Resident Term Office for eight years, and who is herself an alumna of the College (1936), is now assistant to the Non-Resident Term director.

WORLDS AT OUR DOOR

A new series of Elizabeth Harrington Dickinson Lectures on Public Affairs was inaugurated on October 18th when Professor John Kenneth Galbraith of Harvard University spoke before a capacity audience in the Carriage Barn. Professor Galbraith, author of The Affluent Society, discussed "The Difference in Economic Society."

Comparing our economics with those of underdeveloped nations, he described the differences as more than quantitative and substantiated his premise with many examples of actual differences in kind.

The new political series will run concurrently with the Elizabeth Harrington Dickinson Lectures on the Poetic Tradition in English. Both series have been made possible by gifts from Fairleigh S. Dickinson, Jr. in honor of his wife, who was graduated a science major from Bennington College in 1943. Mr. Dickinson has been a member of the Board of Trustees of Bennington College since 1957.

GRANT FOR SCIENCE

The National Science Foundation has awarded Bennington an institutional grant of \$17,640. Colleges become eligible for National Science Foundation funds in years in which grants for basic research have been applied for and received. Bennington qualified for the grant this year when funds were awarded faculty member Lucien Hanks for an expedition into upper Thailand. The institutional grant, which may be used for Natural and/or Social Science programs, comes to the College at an especially opportune time. A new science building is one of the first three projects under consideration in Bennington's new building program. A Faculty Committee and a special Trustees Committee have been activated to study the directions science should take at Bennington. Both are working with a sense of urgency because curricula requirements must be built into the new science building. Major decisions must be made, therefore, before the building is designed.

Dean Harry Pearson, two members of the Natural Science Division and two members of the Social Science Division make up the Faculty Committee. Serving on the Trustee Science Policy Committee are Franklin L. Ford, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at Harvard and a former instructor of history at Bennington College, Dr. Robert Morison, director of the Medical and Natural Sciences Division of the Rockefeller Foundation, Franklin Lindsay, president of the ITEK Corporation, and John McCullough, publisher and a member of the Board of Directors of the Desoff Choirs.

The committees already have approved the expenditure of a portion of the grant for the purchase of cell cultures and equipment with which John F. Wahnus of the Science Division will initiate a program of cell culture research. Students will participate in the program in the course of classroom and laboratory work.

TWO FOR ONE

The one, the only, the highly original Silo has won in two, the only two, of the year's nation-wide competitions for undergraduate magazines. Named "best single issue" out of 170 entries, Silo took praise, plaque, and a prize of \$250 in the contest jointly held last spring by the United States National Student Association and the Saturday Review of Literature. Now Silo has captured the Association of Literary Magazines of America trophy for the "best undergraduate literary magazine of 1962," in what an ALMA official has described as "a clean sweep of the field."

Long popular with the Bennington College community, Silo recently has been revamped, its scope considerably expanded. It now invites and publishes the work of students at other colleges and presents, along with poetry and fiction, such diverse features as musical compositions, woodcuts, journals, critical essays, dance scores--even architectural drawings.

The USNSA-SRL plaque (see SRL, Sept. 21) is Bennington's to hold forever. The money is still to come, but Silo's editors are not impatient. The ALMA sculpture, too, was slow to appear. The ALMA committee appointed to select an appropriate work of art for presentation encountered proverbial difficulties when the time came for its art-loving members to agree. Their ultimate choice, a handsome sculpture by Raymond Jacobson, is currently on display in the lobby of the Barn, and will remain there through the end of the contest year.

Silo comes out twice yearly. It is sold in several bookstores in Boston and New York, as well as at the campus co-op. Subscription prices (make checks payable to SIL0, send them to Bennington College, Bennington, Vermont) are \$2 for two issues, \$5 for six.

One further note on periodicals: The Saturday Review of Literature plans to publish soon a piece on Bennington College by David Boroff. A member of the English Department at New York University, Mr. Boroff is the author of Campus, U.S.A., and is widely recognized as an interpreter of the college scene.

FUTURES UNDELAYED

Former students will be pleased to know that although they are only 2,879 in number, during Bennington's relatively few years they have made many scholarships possible by contributing more than \$600,000 to the Alumnae Fund. They also will be pleased to learn that seven additional scholarships are now available at Bennington each year through the establishment of the Nathalie Henderson Swan Scholarship Fund. The Fund, a gift of Joseph R. Swan in honor of his wife, is particularly meaningful to Bennington since Mrs. Swan was a member of the original Bennington Board of Trustees in 1925. Without her help and interest Bennington might not have survived the bleak days of 1929 to 1932.

SPCA--and H

A landslide vote makes pets welcome again on campus - at least for a two-semester trial.

Limited in recent years to keeping such small pets as goldfish and turtles, students reopened the question of quadrupeds last spring by asking President Fels if he would veto a vote endorsing the maintenance of larger animals on College grounds. The answer was, of course, no contravention, provided problems which involved the rights of human beings as well as those of animals could be resolved. The Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals--

and Humans, made up of student, faculty and administration representatives, was formed. It issued information on state laws regarding pets and furnished details of food costs, shots, veterinary services, license fees and boarding facilities. But more than facts of animal life were necessary before the College community's all too human fears were satisfied. Those who'd watched pets fall from grace in earlier years expressed strong doubts about repeating the experiment. "Our household help will quit," was heard in faculty quarters. Voiced elsewhere was, "What happens if I'm followed by a pack of hounds?" But reasonable arrangements were agreed to, and well before the machinery of community government went into action, pet owners' responsibilities and general rules of conduct were defined. The votes were cast and now some twenty creatures, mainly cats and kittens, are living at the College. Perhaps pets of today are better adjusted than their forebears. Or their I.Q.'s may be higher. In any case, the pets have caused no major crises. It seems unlikely now that problems will arise. And Bennington continues faithful to the principle that each new generation learns best by doing.

ADDENDUM

Last spring's Newsletter brought news of activities of members of the Literature Division, including word about books still in the making. Several of these books have since been published and favorably received.

Antonio Machado's Juan de Mairena, translated and edited by Ben Belitt, has been issued by the University of California Press.

Stanley Edgar Hyman's collection of critical essays and reviews entitled, The Promised End (World Publishing) is his most recent publication. Darwin for Today, edited and with an introduction by Mr. Hyman, appeared earlier this year under Viking's imprint.

Idiots First, Bernard Malamud's latest book, is a collection of short stories. Published by Farrar, Straus & Co., it has already made its way to the "---And Bear in Mind" column of the New York Times Book Review.

Along with essays in Critique, Studies in Modern Fiction, and Cahier L'Herne and articles and reviews in the Nation, New York Times Book Review and New Leader, Saul Maloff edited the Esquire book and published short stories.

Though not a product of Bennington's faculty, And Suddenly It's Evening should be of general interest. It is the autobiography of the College's first Director of Admissions, Mabel Barbee Lee. (Doubleday)

Publication of Poetry and Fiction: Essays by Howard Nemerov, scheduled for this fall, has been postponed until December. Mr. Nemerov is currently Consultant in Poetry in English to the Library of Congress. Along with lectures and talks with visiting poets, his activities include working with educators in the Washington area on plans for educational television.

ELEMENTAL

Although the new heating-maintenance plant, hidden away to the south of the College drive, is not scheduled for completion for some weeks yet, the actual heating equipment is humming along in tip-top fashion. When thermostats rise, can spring be far behind? The answer is yes, and everyone on campus is glad of assurance given by new boilers.