

## "Bennington Night" Nov. 8

On Monday night, November eighth, from 9:00 until 10:00, the Associates of Bennington are sponsoring an all-Bennington program at the Hunter Auditorium in New York City. The purpose of the program is to acquaint more people with the type of work we are doing here at college. An extensive list of invitations is being prepared including prospective students, girls and faculty from the secondary schools, alumnae of Bennington and the parents of girls in the Metropolitan area.

### Varied Program

The program will include one or two scenes from the Drama department to be selected by Mr. Allan Lewis, a dance group directed by Martha Hill, and something from the music department. Mr. Boepple hopes to present a pre-classical program with selections by a student instrumental trio. Also, Miss Carol Greenfield, class of '45, will play the harpsicord. Miss Greenfield has done quite a bit of radio work since she has graduated and attracted much attention in the music world. Dr. Burkhardt will comment on interesting aspects of the other fields.

### Exhibit in Lobby

For those departments not actually represented in the program, there will be an exhibit placed in the lobby of the auditorium. This showing will include several paintings done by members of the art department. The "cloud chamber" which was built by a recent science major, and has stimulated much comment here on campus, will also be exhibited.

Mrs. Hall Park McCullough, a resident of North Bennington and a trustee of the college is to be Program Chairman.

## Save Cigarette Tabs

For those who smoke Chesterfield cigarettes—please save the red tab around the top of the package. Wilhelmina Eaton has a large collection and would welcome more. For a certain number the Chesterfield Company will give a seeing-eye dog to a blind institute.

The Beacon will put a box in commons for the tabs.

## Webster's Experimental Repertory Theater to Play Bennington November 4

"Macbeth" at Matinee, Evening Performance of "Hamlet" At Williamstown

Margaret Webster's Shakespearean Repertory Group, sponsored by the Bennington Drama Festival, Inc., will present a matinee performance of *Macbeth* at the General Stark Theater on November 4th. Miss Webster's group is making a nationwide tour at popular prices, playing largely for colleges and universities.

Exciting reviews of the group's opening performance of *Hamlet* have been received from Buffalo. Carol Goodner, who is to portray "Lady Macbeth", was acclaimed an "up and coming young actress with great ability and polish." Joseph Holland's "Claudius" and his performance of the title role in *Macbeth* have been enthusiastically received.

### Origin of Group

Miss Webster first proposed the idea of a touring repertory theater in her book, *Shakespeare Without Tears*. There have been few touring repertory groups in American theater history, and although *Hamlet* and *Macbeth* are the only plays to be presented this season, Miss Webster hopes eventually to be able to present the plays of Chekov and Ibsen as well as contemporary American dramatists. The company aims at revitalizing Shakespeare by making it comprehensible to the layman. Miss Webster hopes that by actually presenting a play which has been previously studied, that the study of Shakespearean literature will be supplemented. In regard to revitalization of Shakespeare, Miss Webster has tried to dispense with stylized costumes and sets in order to make the plays a part of contemporary times. She has sought to achieve through basic sets and costumes the timeless quality of Shakespearean literature.

There is a great deal of hard work involved in this enterprise. Costumes for the company—of twenty-five are stored in the rear of the repertory's bus and all sets are portable and can be erected within an hour. The presentation of two plays a day is in itself a problem, but it becomes for more complicated by the element of travel.

It is a revolutionary and ambitious task which Miss Webster and her company have set for themselves. If public reaction to this enterprise is indicative of the success of its purpose, Miss Webster has gone far in the crusade to revive Shakespeare as a part of our time and culture.

Tickets can be obtained for \$2.40, \$1.80 and \$1.20, respectively, and a sell-out has already been forecasted.

## General Meetings Committee Busy

Several products of the General Meetings Committee's work have been enjoyed by the community this term. Now the committee, composed of Miss Bowman, chairman, Mr. Kampelman, Mr. Belitt, Patton Galloway and Martha Holt, are preparing for the election night gathering in the Carriage Barn. They hope to be able to obtain a band for the event.

"Fallen Sparrow", scheduled for October 16, is the next movie which will be brought to the campus under the auspices of the committee. "Pinocchio" and "The Seventh Veil" are subsequent films planned for this semester.

## A Bennington-Eye View of Europe

by Barbara Smith

During the two years that have passed since the war ended, we have read daily newspaper reports of the political, social, economic and cultural adjustments and maladjustments taking place in post World War II Europe. Last spring and summer several Bennington students decided to go direct to the source of these reports and decide for themselves if, for instance, there is a real fear of eminent war and if a sincere effort is being made to reconstruct or if France is really coming up in chaos while England goes down with dignity. And being from Bennington, as I have said, a few naturally wanted to know if there was truly a place for the artist in Parisian society. Here are some of the conclusions and opinions with which they returned to college.

### Europe Needs American Capital and Goods

There was unanimous agreement that all of Europe, except Denmark and Switzerland, was badly in need of American capital and, more particularly, American goods. Whereas Copenhagen abounded with rich pastries, fine buildings, and good music, London had largely only rationing and more rationing to offer. All of our well fed Bennington students complained about the food shortage: a typical dinner consists of one egg and perhaps a slice of bacon, bread, sometimes butter, jam, and maybe a salad. Two or three such meals caused more than one student to question why the United States does not send some chickens and seeds instead of the military supplies that appear to dominate ERP shipments. Surprisingly enough, there was little enthusiasm on the subject of historical London; those to whom I talked to seemed far more impressed by the tired but determined spirit of the English. With apparently inexhaustible resoluteness, they are trying to figure out, first, what needs to be done, and second, how to go about doing it. "But", said one student, "though I definitely admire their sense of dignity and purpose I'm a bit annoyed at the attitude of the British towards the United States. They seem to resent the fact that we've retained our high standard of living while for the past seven or eight years they've had to get along on less and less. At the same time, however, they have faith in American industry as a means of rehabilitating their own country. They want to get the American dollar providing there are not too many political and economic strings attached."

### Paris Beautiful and Gay

After ration-weary London, Paris seemed, superficially at least, just as Paris should seem—bustling, gay and beautiful. One student remarked that the whole city looked as though it had been planned by the same architect; another spoke of the real pleasure one can have by merely sitting for several can have by merely sitting for several wide boulevards, talking to native Parisians, or simply contemplating Paris. Helen Frankenthaler tells of a group of people she saw standing around a new truck, toasting its arrival with champagne. Then there are the obscure little book stores where one can buy excellent French prints, the beautiful salons of Dior and Schaperelli, the magnificent art galleries and so on ad infinitum. Usually, those I interviewed prefaced their remarks with a statement to the effect that "the charm of Paris really can't be defined" and then proceeded to reel off countless details. However, a few of the Bennington girls

(Continued on page 4)

## Bennington Paintings in NSA Exhibit in Chicago

The first annual National Student Art Exhibit is one of the chief cultural attractions at De Pau University's 50th anniversary celebration which began September 25 in Chicago, Illinois. Clare Carruthers, Fanny Parsons, and Katherine Ann White have paintings hung in the exhibit.

### Exhibit To Travel

Sponsored by the National Students Association, the exhibit originated at the NSA Congress held last month at Madison, Wisconsin. With De Pau University the first stop, the exhibit will travel to colleges and Universities all over the country in an attempt to let American students know what their fellows are doing in the field of art.

### More Plans For Best Pictures

The display, which includes water colors, gouaches, etchings, lithographs, and prints, is comprised of eighty-eight pieces of art submitted by students of thirty-seven NSA member schools. Following the De Pau showing, thirty of the best pictures will be loaned to the Museum of Industrial Art in Prague, for the exhibition of student Arts and Crafts sponsored by the International Union of Students. This will include student work from all over the world.

## Library Circulation Increases

The Bennington College Library is becoming a busier place, for according to the library report for the year 1947-48 the total circulation has increased 1802 volumes over that of 1946-47. Here are the statistics for last year. The number of two week loans to students was 18,830; three day loans, 443; reserve books for overnight use, 3,179. The number of books loaned to faculty members and others was 4,319, making a total circulation of 26,771.

On August 1, 1947 the number of volumes on hand was 28,252, and during 1947-48 there were 222 books withdrawn from the library, and 1,106 books added, including 111 gifts, thus raising the total to 29,136 volumes by July 31, 1948.

### Library Donors

A few of the many donors who helped increase our book stock last year were Senator George D. Aiken, Senator Owen Brewster, Representative Christian A. Herter, American Medical Association, American Sugar Refining Company, Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, Bulgarian Legation, Columbia University Press, and The Crown Cork and Seal Company.

## Bennington College Octet Sings in Williamstown

On Saturday, October 9th, the Bennington Octet sang at the Purple Key dance in the Williams College gymnasium. Their songs were broadcast over the Pittsfield radio station at 10:00 p. m., but unfortunately no one at college was able to get the station.

They sang nine songs including "Mood Indigo", "St. James' Infirmary" and "How High the Moon".

If the community wishes to hear the Octet, they sing in the red dining room every Tuesday and Thursday nights. They will also sing before the dance on November 6th.

If anyone has arrangements, or would like to write some, the Octet would be delighted to see them. Contact Sally Whitely for information.

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## Editorial

"THE BEACON can become an important agency for the communication of ideas on educational policies and Community Government and a great force in the unification of the Bennington College Community." This comment was made by the former President Jones in the first issue of THE BEACON. Unfortunately since that time most of THE BEACON comment has come from the BEACON staff and its editorial board.

There is no doubt that many people have ideas which they do not wish to express in community meeting or which are not directly concerned with community problems. It is certainly difficult to formulate opinions and comments with a view toward publication, but the effort would be worthwhile if it resulted in an improvement or change in college policies.

For instance: have you suggestions for improvements in Community Meetings; are there new courses that you would like to see included in the college curriculum; or do you know of outside college activities that might be of interest to the community?

When you write to the BEACON you are not simply voicing your own opinion, but you may be able to stimulate group interest and create group action.

## Inquiring Reporter

## Students Quote Preferences on Coming Lectures

In order to discover what types of lecture series are preferred by Bennington students, an Inquiring Reporter asked eight girls: "What would you like to see in the way of a lecture series this year?"

**Anne Sharp**—"I would like to hear lectures on the national political situation."

**Phyllis Meili**—"If possible I would be very interested to hear Wallace speak and also hear a series of lectures on a foreign country."

**Virginia Wilson**—"Talks on Communism, Socialism, and Democracy."

**Anne Cohen**—"A series of talks on Modern Art."

**Betty Winslow**—"I would like to hear a speech defending Capitalism and also lectures on Socialized Medicine."

**Packy Cooke**—"A series of lectures or our government or on a government of another country."

**Phyllis Sidenberg**—"I would like to hear lectures on politics, the world situation, our State Department, and on the job opportunities for graduating students."

**Nancy Slezak**—"Series of lectures on all types of art."

The majority of answers to this question were statements indicating that politics are the main interest of a Bennington girl at this time. These results should be helpful to the College in deciding whom to have as speakers this year.

## The Song of the Michigan Thrush

Inspired by the results of the straw-vote, which showed that the majority of the College was pro-Dewey, Nadya Margulies has written her impressions of the Presidential candidate.

Oh, I'm a gay blade from Owasso  
With a mustache pinned under my schnosso,

I'm ready to jump  
Onto any old stump  
From Albany out to El Paso.  
You ask me what is my position,  
You accuse me of "sin by omission",  
I say what's the sense,  
Of leaving my fence  
And risking a head-on collision.

I'd have taxes reduced,  
Although prices they'd boost,  
(and my stand has been anti-inflation.)  
I'd have union rights curbed,  
'Cause Brownell is disturbed,  
And pass N.A.M. legislation.  
My career in the state  
Has been fine up to date,  
Lehman's funds stood me well in reserve,

We'd have been silly fools  
To help New York schools,  
Now I'll boast of the funds I'll conserve.  
I'm against low-cost housing,  
Though my speeches were rousing,  
When "our boys" were out fighting the war,

Than thieves I've been thicker,  
With men like John Bricker,  
Isolationists down to the core.  
My foreign position is clear,  
Whenever the Russians get near,  
Like a preacher 'gainst sin  
I'll stick out my chin;  
Do my best to intensify fear.  
My Republican friends in D. C.,  
Have made it quite simple to see  
Civil Liberties trampled;  
Senate hearings we've sampled  
Differ only regarding degree  
From the way that we shun,  
Of the "Commie" and "Hun",  
(For this is the land of the free!)

I'm doing whatever I'm told,  
I'm making Herb Hoover sound bold,

## On Early Graduation

Due to confused opinion on campus as to the official college policy on early graduation, an interview was obtained with Miss Shelly to clarify the matter. Miss Shelly stated primarily that four years has been arbitrarily set as the customary basis for the college experience. In this respect Bennington has followed the tradition, feeling that in most cases four years is certainly worth investing in undergraduate work. The college curricula and plan for graduation has been regulated on the basis of the four year period.

## Exceptional Work Must Be Done

If any criteria for early graduation is to be established, logically it should be based upon the following considerations: (1) The amount of work completed by the student when she expects to receive her degree should be equivalent to the normal four year experience in every way possible. That is, her work in both general and major study should fulfill the requirements that are demanded of the regular four year graduate. (2) By far the most important consideration for early graduation, is that the work of the student considering early graduation should be clearly distinguished, advanced, and independent work in her major field. According

(Continued on page 6)

And Jaeckle and Landon  
Have both had a hand in  
The plating that make me look gold.  
I'm up with the farmers each morn,  
I love farming, but hate hybrid corn!  
I'm a man of the people, real simple,  
With my livestock, and Mrs., and dimple,  
And a Pawling estate,  
And a governor's rate,  
But I'd like an "At Home" on the President's gate.  
My hat has been long in the ring,  
It's gotten quite tattered, poor thing.  
There is nothing to quote,  
I have sung a safe note,  
And the Michigan thrush likes to sing!

## Beacon Interviews Five New Faculty Members

## Mr. Kampelman Joins Political Economy Department

Mr. Kampelman just finished three years' teaching of political science at the University of Minnesota. He transferred to Bennington because he considered the change a challenge, and because he liked the aims it has crystallized of a cooperative community and real learning, instead of the old mass learning process. So far, he feels that our students are equivalent to all the A students at Minnesota; and that their only possible drawback is that they are all women—"it's unnatural".

Mr. Kampelman's two courses, **Man and the State** and **Problems of Democracy**, serve as introductions to the study of politics. While teaching these, since he has had quite a bit of experience with labor in union organizations, he is planning to remain active in labor groups in Vermont.

## Experienced Actor in Drama Dept.

Mr. Alvin, the new teacher of Techniques of Acting, comes from Berkeley, California, where he worked in drama and radio. In New York City he became an actor in the Neighborhood Playhouse School of Theater and has had engagements with C. Aubrey Smith and Gail George. After serving in the army he worked in summer stock, acted at the Experimental Theater, and directed Equity Library shows, The Finger Lakes Drama Festival, and the 6 o'clock Theater. His roles have been a wide variety of character parts, principally comedy. One of the most recent of these plays was "Hope Is a Thing With Feathers".

Mr. Alvin wanted off-Broadway life, so he turned to teaching, and thus Bennington. He first heard of it through the reputation of the Dance Festival, and became interested on hearing of the integration of teaching methods in the Drama Department with the other courses, such as Dance. He believes that only this sort of perfect freedom is conducive to the development of a creative theater, which is his hope.

## Mr. Dorner, New Art Instructor

Mr. Dorner, the new professor of **Forms of Visual Art** and the **History of Renaissance Art**, came originally from Germany, where, as a museum director and a professor, he fought radically for modern art during Hitler's early rise. As so many advocates of free, growing thinking, he was forced to flee. In America he joined the faculty of the Rhode Island School of Design and then Brown University. Mr. Dorner lectured at Bennington last term. He has always been interested in its reputation for freedom and the advance of thinking, because he feels "that the world needs strong, well-disciplined intellects for its future struggles".

In art, Mr. Dorner agrees with the science belief that methods should not be static, but always changing and dynamic; therefore, we should always be ready to improve our visual interpretations of the world. He mentions that art has a concrete, ethical purpose and that it is a tremendous but unappreciated force in our lives. On this subject he has already written a book entitled "The Way Beyond Art" concerning abstract art. At present, he is working on a new history of art.

## Mr. Lewis:

## Interest in Broader Education

Mr. Richard Lewis, Instructor of **Spirit of Renaissance Humanism** and **American Literature of the Formative Period**, taught for two years in the Humanities Department at the University of Chicago. Previously, he was graduated from Harvard, class of '39, fought in Italy during the war, and returned to finish his Ph.D. in American Literature. He became interested in

(Continued on page 6)



"And what are you majoring in?"



## Faculty Concert

The program for the faculty concert of September 30, consisted of: a Beethoven Trio for clarinet, cello, and piano played by Schoenbeck, Finckle, and Franck; a Schubert Sonatina for violin, and piano played by Pernel, and Franck; a Hindemith Quartet for clarinet, violin, cello, and piano played by Shoenbeck, Pernel, Finckle, and Nowak.

The pace at which the trio of performers took the first movement of this piece, displayed finger dexterity of remarkable calibre. A tedious—perhaps nervous—movement now and then, made me aware of the technical efforts. However, there was an emotional quality, commanded by the piece itself, which was a fairly consistent one with all three players; completely consistent with Claude Frank's first performance here.

On the whole, there was an apt interpretation even, unusual perhaps, with this particular group of instruments, for the music is scored for violin as well as clarinet, and in close quarters, the former is perhaps to be more desired.

## Schubert Well Played

The performance of the Sonatina is truly to be remembered. It suggested to me a great finesse, a subtle interpretation and I found myself quite alert, where before I have drifted. A completely commendable piece of ensemble work, which means too, a completely commendable job of individual assurance and effectiveness.

## Hindemith Quartet Interesting

I find the essence of Hindemith's Quartet in his dramatic use of instruments, rather than in the music itself. By use of instruments, I mean the balance in range relations for the most part, and in the rhythmic contrasts between the four.

The performance of this quartet was of first class nature. The mood changes made by the music itself were thoroughly expressed by each instrument alone, and all together it was an experience rarely achieved in a grouping of such performers. The composition is of a consistent nature except in parts of the third movement, and the performance extended its musical values to a fullest degree, which sometimes is not the case.

Sally Jackson

## Mr. Dorner Discusses Art Exhibit

Paintings and Sculptures on Third Floor of Commons

These are examples of

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executed by Man.

They cover dark and hidden ceilings, walls and floors of caves in Southern France and Northern Spain and date between 20,000 and 8,000 B. C.

They were not "decorations" displayed for aesthetic contemplation, but magical creations of actually living animals to be killed by painted darts, traps or actual blows.

Thus they merge with the actual game, which, to our way of thinking, was separated from them by space and time. This vagueness of thinking, ruled entirely by the powerful imagination of savage drives, accounts for the three outstanding characteristics of these creations: their structural vagueness (no ground to stand on, no distinct place of their own, no distinct relationships to their surroundings and no inner organic structure); the carnal narrowness of their subject matter; their overwhelming and fascinating liveliness.

Primitive man saw these paintings and sculptures as actually moving flashes of reality and we should try to "see" them accordingly.

A. D.

## "The Youth of Maxim" not up to "Great Expectations"

### "Great Expectations" Proves Enjoyable Film

As a novel, "Great Expectations" was not one of Dickens' best. Too much contrivance, too much coincidence robbed the story of any verisimilitude and left only an implausible, if charmingly fashioned, period piece.

Somewhere, although it has followed its source faithfully, the motion picture version of "Great Expectations" has managed to escape these weaknesses. Its combination of excellent acting, skillful directing, and effective photography has resulted in one of the really fine pictures of recent years.

### Story of Orphan

The story, which takes place in England in the mid-nineteenth century, concerns Pip, an orphan lad who befriends an escaped convict. Years later Pip becomes a young man of "great expectations" when he is adopted by a mysterious benefactor. His changed status enables him to pursue his lifelong ambitions to become a gentleman and to court Estella, a childhood friend and the ward of a wealthy recluse. The revelation of his benefactor proves a test to Pip's character; and the plot moves swiftly to its climax and a happy ending.

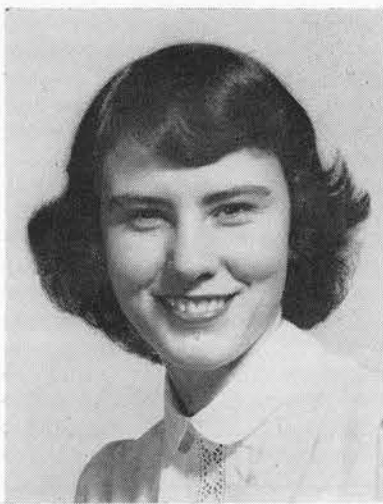
### Excellent Acting

John Mills and Valerie Hobson, as hero and heroine, give excellent performances but are slightly overshadowed by Anthony Wager and Jean Simmons, who play the pair as children. Finlay Currie as the convict, Francis Sullivan as the go-between for Pip's patron, Martita Hunt as Estella's guardian, and Alec Guinness as Pip's friend Pocket are all equally praiseworthy. It is, indeed, difficult to single out any member of the cast for special mention, each role being beautifully acted.

### Film Successful

The background of England in the 1850's, the costumes, and the photography blend perfectly into the mood of the film. There is, in fact, almost nothing of which to complain in "Great Expectations". It is an enjoyable and intelligently produced motion picture, coming at a time when both these qualities are increasingly difficult to find in modern films.

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### Russian Film Combines Propaganda, Art

"The Youth of Maxim" is an excellent example of the propaganda picture at its best. Made in the U. S. S. R. in 1935, it was awarded the Moscow prize for motion pictures.

The first picture of a trilogy, "The Youth of Maxim" traces the development of its hero from a care-free factory worker to an active organizer of the revolutionary Social-Democrat Party in the days following the unsuccessful revolt of 1905.

### A Revolutionary is Born

After helping Natasha, a young Party worker, escape from the factory, Maxim refuses to act as a company spy. A factory accident and the riot that follows it take the lives of his two friends and throws Maxim in with the revolutionaries. He proves his value to the Party during a police raid and becomes an active Bolshevik.

### Technical Skill Aids Film

Within this simple frame the conflict between revolutionists and Czarists is developed. Boris Chirkov gives a convincing portrayal of Maxim, and the supporting cast is equally competent. The photography is skillfully handled, particularly in the opening scenes; and background music adds greatly to the picture. Indeed, the strongest virtues of the film are its natural fusion of sound movement, and design and the thematic use of light and sound.

### Climax Lacks Force

But despite its many excellent qualities, "The Youth of Maxim" fails to capture its audience completely. The picture arouses no identification with the characters, due to its lack of emotional impact. The various parts of the film are poorly proportioned, and the climax is weak. In fact, because each of the episodes rises to its own peak, there is no climax.

Yet "The Youth of Maxim", by virtue of its fine acting and high technical quality, remains a worth-while motion picture.

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## Alumnae Album

Faith Richardson, '41, was married on Sept. 19th to Mr. James H. Barnett III, in Milton, Mass.

Dorothy Coffin, '42, was married on August 21st in Duxbury, Mass., to Mr. Charles Harvi.

Pam Richards, '42, was married on June 26th to Mr. Francis Brooks. They are now living in Chestnut Hill, Mass.

Mr. and Mrs. James Vandermade (Peg Brush '42) announce the birth of their son, James S., Jr., born on August 8th.

Mrs. George Zabriskie, the former Elizabeth Capehart '39, has won the first prize for black-and-white media in the San Diego Art Guild Annual. She is now doing life drawings at the University of Louisville, where her husband is an instructor in Poetry and English. Mrs. Zabriskie is also working on illustration for her husband's book which is his 2nd Guggenheim project in poetry.

Ann Donaldson '41, with Judy Evans of Smith, has her own business, On Stage, at 142 West 44th Street in New York City. She is devoting her time to helping "Broadway - beglamoured out-of-towners". She arranges recordings, interviews, and auditions, and gives advice on everything from personal appearance to "Broadway's bad boys".

There will be an Alumnae Weekend beginning October 22nd.

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because

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Judy Seaver



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A Bennington-Eye View  
of Europe

(Continued from page 1)

did not find the "charm" of Paris adequate compensation for "confusion and corruptions". The black market is rampant and one meets money-changers in cafes, on the street, in elevators, in fact, practically all over Paris. Moreover, there is little or no attempt to conceal the exchange. Jerene Jones said that there was an interim period of adjustment after the devaluation of the franc when the black market all but disappeared; but those who were in Paris this summer said that it was once more going full tilt. Though the cost of living is high in terms of French incomes, it is extremely low in terms of American exchange rates; for instance, one can get a fairly decent meal for fifty cents and hotel accommodations are available for three and four dollars a week. Of course, these prices do not prevail at the Ritz; the tourist has to do a bit of shopping around in the Left Bank sections because the French, as the English, are badly in need of American capital and hence do not hesitate to keep prices high in places habituated by tourists. As one Bennington girl said, "The student from a well-to-do American college is almost forced into a position of hypocrisy: either she can go to an expensive section of Paris and not see anything of real French life or she can go to the student section and assume the role of an impoverished French student."

## Parisians Aware of Change

Although the middle class has been almost totally wiped away by the devaluation of the franc, Jerene Jones stayed with a family which she described as "typically bourgeoisie"; however, two wars had just about depleted their financial resources. The husband, an ardent de Gaullist, had a glorified white collar job with an electrical company and the wife, very much pro-Socialist, was an art critic for several French journals. She, as do many French, feared de Gaulle as a potential dictator, but she saw the "man on horseback" as a means of unifying France and restoring it to its former position of power. It was interesting to hear that the avant-guard member of the family was acquainted with the politics of Henry Wallace. When the family was together at dinner, pre-war Paris was the main topic of conversation and Jerry found that though Paris may seem approximately gay and French to the tourist, the natives are painfully aware of a great change. Not only is the country in far worse economic straits than England, the six years of occupation has left a very harmful psychological effect. Beneath their warmth and vivacity, there is a tremendous emotional tenseness, amounting sometimes to hostility. The French are especially worried about the unending strikes and changes in government; at the same time, they voiced no particular desire to change their political system. Almost every family has lost someone in the war and they now appear to half-expect another one, even though they realize that as a nation they are too exhausted, both physically and economically, to fight for any political ideals. Unlike London, the city was untouched by bombs; but the occupation left a bitterness that is noticeably absent in England. One student who had lived in Paris before the war said that "the French have lost their natural courtesy". Although they hope, and hope desperately, for a new France in the future, they are primarily concerned with getting whatever they can and however they can in the present. As in England, there appeared to be some resentment against the United States; in Normandy the general opinion appears to be that anything, including German occupation would have been better than a demolished city. But while one student said that she understood that at least half of the people in Paris had been pro-German, the majority attested to the deep bitterness the French feel toward them. At all

costs, they want to keep Germany down and for this reason, many of the French are a bit skeptical as to the beneficial effects of ERP. And though they need American aid, as the English, they do not want to be told exactly how to expedite it.

## Respect for Students

Yet, despite the scars of the war and the hardships of reconstruction, one still finds groups of students laughing and talking for hours over a glass of wine. Moreover, there is an obvious cultural tradition in Paris that helps considerably to take the sting out of the "corruption and chaos". In general, one finds a great respect for students; who are considered a very important part of the political and social process. In the Universities, emphasis is placed just as much upon expression as it is upon knowledge per se, and the individual has ample opportunity to be an individual instead of a representative of a pattern.

## Switzerland and Holland

Reactions to Switzerland differed considerably. All agreed that the Alps are not beautiful, if not breathtaking, and that the chalets looked just as chalets should look—clean and picturesque. But whereas some of the students I talked to found Switzerland a "refreshing change after corrupt Paris", others dismissed it rather abruptly as "one smug, isolated, little pastry shop". Several found this same smugness in the Dutch people, and again, others singled it out as the one country that seems to have maintained a nice balance between cultural and material values. Their effects of the war were particularly noticeable in Rotterdam where hardly a single building is left standing; but the vigorous Dutch have thrown themselves wholeheartedly into the task of reconstruction and, moreover, seem to be making definite progress along those lines.

## Italy

The three Bennington girls who were in Italy this summer experienced almost the exact same reaction to the people: sooner or later each said, "They're just like children who love to be happy and gay. They are charming". But, as Gloria Berger pointed out, this same child-like quality also leads to the dangerous tendency of playing follow the leader; and the Italians apparently are searching to find someone who will show them what to do. Whereas the upper classes still retain their fascistic beliefs, the lower classes are torn between communism, socialism, and following de Gasperi. Both Gloria Berger and Jerene Jones were in Rome shortly after the elections and each commented on the tremendous number of political posters which bore pictures of Togliatti, de Gasperi, Saragat, and somehow, even Garibaldi. And while on a train, Jerry received a black edged mourning card bearing M's name. But though the Italians are extremely enthusiastic about ERP, the political fervor is in sharp contrast to the actual amount of reconstruction in progress. Reports as to the extent of bomb damage conflicted: one said that except for the bridges and harbors, Italy seemed comparatively untouched; another said that the whole country side gave evidence of heavy bombardment. But whatever the actual damage may be, and despite the manifest poverty of the country, the Italians appear to be in much better spirits than do the French. Rome, untouched by the war, remains a beautiful city where people actually do wander about the streets singing arias from the Barber of Seville.

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## Beacon Interviews Five New Faculty Members

(Continued from page 2)

Bennington in preference to Chicago because of the idea of the prescribed, set program, on the one hand, against the individual independence, on the other. His fundamental interest is a college education "as such", not simply, as in his case, American Literature. He tries to bring a relationship between all the studies, especially liberal arts and science, into the content of his courses.

Mr. Lewis is thoroughly pleased with everything at Bennington; his only complaint being that the students are making him work too hard.

### Mr. Novak Rejoins Bennington Faculty

Mr. Lionel Novak, formerly a faculty member of the Bennington School of the Dance, has come back to Bennington to teach piano and ear training. Mr. Novak says "it's grand to be back". He hopes to be able to compose music for dance here, but at present is concentrating in the music department.

### Varied Background

Mr. Novak has had a distinguished career in the music field. He has taught piano, composition, and theory, at Converse College, South Carolina, and at the University of Syracuse. He studied the piano with Beryl Rubenstein in Chicago, and Edwin Fisher in Berlin. He first started playing for dance in Chicago with Eleanor Framp-ton in 1932. Mr. Novak told us that the first time he accompanied a modern dance class he was so embarrassed that he couldn't look at the dancers. Needless to say, his attitude has changed, and he now enjoys a distinguished reputation as a composer for dance. He has composed music for Jose Limon, Doris Humphries, Charles Weidman, Jean Erdmann, and many other well known modern dancers.

### Challenge to Composers

Mr. Novak feels that modern dance is a great help to music, and that its rhythms and its peculiar "Americanism" challenges new inventiveness in composers. The stage in general, he believes, is very important to music. He hopes that he can develop students who are interested in becoming librettists, an important field that has been overlooked by the majority of writers.

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## Local Color Inherited and Preserved in Old Bennington Museum

One way to feel a closeness and fresh affinity to the creators of the local heritage is to go to the Historic Museum in Old Bennington and see the relics and everyday objects made and actually used by these people. The local color preserved and on view in the museum proves exciting and colorful. It is more impressive than many historic exhibits despite its comparative smallness, because it is strictly local. The exciting part is rediscovering the provincial brands of humor, imagination, and ingenuity, and the sense of line, form and color, utility and adornment that express these things in the farm implements, documents, clothes, haberdashery, table cutlery, mob-caps, and tuning forks of former Vermonters. The items in the exhibit not only tell about particular Vermonters, but in doing so, tell about New Englanders of the time when New England was the hatching place of American colonial tradition and propriety, and when the first Atlantic cable was sent, when Millard Fillmore was President, when the North fought the South, and when the Gold Rush was on.

### Slippers and Skeltons

The apple parer made by Daniel Cox of West Woodstock in 1785 shows an ingenious pie-loving farmer thinking up a spinning-wheel-like wooden machine to peel lots of apples with less work for more apple pies. A hand lantern of Mistress Mary Fay's is made of brass with bottle green hobnail glass for sides and curious Moorish tooling and architectural outline. A pair of white satin slippers belonging to a Mrs. Dwight in 1756 have toe rosettes of elaborate ribbon ruching and carved mother-of-pearl flower buckles, touches of elegance and frivolity in a remote Vermont wilderness. The skeleton of David Redding, hanged in 1778, and kept in a trunk belonging to Jonas Fay since that date, was sent to the museum intact. Some other things from about this time are the branding irons of Moses Robinson, the second governor of Vermont, a cast iron mortar and pestle from the first apothecary store in Bennington, two night watchman's rattles, an old oaken bucket circa 1787, and an engraved wood block for printing cloth and paper.

Two pressed glass sperm oil lamps, some tin clip candle holders from a Vermont newspaper, circa 1830, a shoemaker's and harnessmaker's stitching horse, some circular bills, a child's checked percale dress, and the Atlantic Cable celebration proclamation all smack of the enterprising and optimistic 1800's in America. Relics from the Civil War

and the Lincoln era are numerous. A bone toothpick, a jack-knife sort of gadget carved at Point Lookout by a captain in the 9th Vermont Volunteers, is said to be made from human bone with carved lettering colored with human blood that says "Hell of a Prison". A little flask and traveling kit of table cutlery belonging to General Ripley is efficient and curiously streamlined. The epaulets, insignia, gauntlets, saddles and guns of the Revolutionary and Civil Wars present a strangely different picture of men fighting wars with the elegant fullness and cut, hand-stitched seams, and relative cumbersome.

### Even Magical Wonders

A tollgate signboard from Peru, Vermont, circa 1814, lists its rates, beginning, "A four wheeled pleasure carriage, 50 cents, each additional beast, 4 cents. A two wheeled pleasure carriage, 25 cents", a wagon, a cart, sleigh, sled, and so on. A proclamation by a selectman in 1858 says, "To the People of Burlington! Fellow citizens: a girdle has been put about the earth,—The ocean Has Been Subdued, and a spell put upon the waters, of more than magical wonder. Europe and America are United, by the Atlantic Cable. Words of greeting are now passing between the Queen of England and the President of the United States, backwards and forwards from continent to continent under the Waters of the Atlantic Ocean, and running to and fro throughout our land! It is a great event in the World's History, and of unspeakable importance. Let Us Rejoice!"

A tin coffee percolator made and patented in 1870 by a tin works in Vermont is a lanky primitive predecessor of modern percolators. The mid-Victorian fans of silk, trimmed feather plumes, and sequins, with ivory, mother-of-pearl, and wooden handles imported from Paris, 57 Rue de Chateaudem, testify to a gay set of Vermonters at a time when the telephone was still a great curiosity.

The Historic Museum has an extensive collection of china and crockery from the old Bennington Pottery company and several other old Vermont potteries. There is an impressive array of Rockinghamware, granite ware, Bennington porcelain, and Flint enamel ware, in many styles and practical beakers, graceful flaring goblets, wash basins and pictures, bureau sets, spittoons, cigar jugs, and even large door-knobs. The Flint enamel glaze is the color of a chocolate sundae. A shop with such wares would be hard to resist.

A few hours spent in the Old Bennington Historic Museum is a thought stimulus extraordinaire, well worth the twenty-five cents admission.

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## On Early Graduation

(Continued from page 2)

to the Bennington idea of education a student is expected to develop her own potentialities, and her progress is measured in terms of her individual capabilities. However, a student who wishes to complete her college career in a shorter period of time should indicate that she can do exceptional work by any standards.

### Past Criteria

In the past, unfortunately, the considerations stated above have not been the main criteria for granting early graduation. Most students want to graduate earlier for reasons of expediency. These reasons most frequently are: students who entered college in the spring term and want to be graduated in the class with which they associated themselves; students who some time during their college career have left for one term or more and want to graduate without compensating for the time missed (this does not include students who have done accredited work or study elsewhere); those who have become married during their college career and would like to accelerate their studies and still obtain their degree; those desiring to finish sooner in order to get married; and those students who must graduate sooner because their financial position does not permit extended study.

### Counselor's Opinion

In the last case, whenever possible, arrangements are made to provide scholarship for the student in good standing. It is mainly in other cases where difficulty arises. Several students have at one time spoken to their counselor about early graduation. If he does not definitely say "no", his opinion has too often been accepted as an affirmative reply and the student feels that he has granted permission for early graduation. In the future early graduation plans must be presented to the Senior Division committee. The chairman of the Senior Division committee will be the only person to notify the student about the possibilities for acceleration.

### Reasons For Standards

For the sake of Bennington College as an institution of higher learning we must protect the validity of its B. A. degree. Time in itself indicates little as to an individual's maturity but we must nevertheless hold to a standard of sufficient accomplishment in quality as well as the amount of work completed. An untraditional college such as Bennington, accredited in 1942 by the American Association of Universities, must have high enough standards to make its degree acceptable at its face value. This insistence upon a high criteria is partly for the protection of students desiring to do graduate work or apply for jobs after graduation.

If a student desires to accelerate she should plan for it as early as possible in her college career. Emphasis should be placed not only upon independent work in her major field but distinguished work in all she undertakes and also her senior division plan.

All cases cannot be decided beforehand. The student must indicate by her ability that she can attain what will be expected of her. Although in the past the college has made several commitments for early graduation they have caused such confusion among students that an attempt will be made in the future to carry out a consistent program. Any student who does not fully understand the conditions should consult with her senior division committee far enough in advance to secure all satisfactory arrangements.

The Beacon welcomes letters containing criticism, suggestions, or opinion. Address c/o R.S.V.P. and place in Box 104.

## Brother Bennington

Since the founding of Marlboro College last year, there has been almost a 50% increase in the enrollment with the student body now numbering approximately one hundred. Five new faculty have also been added.

Although the college was to become coeducational this year, plans for this have not as yet fully materialized. This is due to the fact that the new dormitory on campus is not completed. However, in the near future, Marlboro will become coed.

Marlboro College was organized to function along the same progressive lines as Bennington. One difference is that their courses are planned more as surveys and tend to examine facts rather than theory. As yet, their administration is not clear on the system of majoring, but they are thinking of having a senior division committee similar to ours except that it will be purely advisory and make no decision as to the student's requirements for majoring.

### Work Period Plan

Marlboro up until now has had a winter non-resident term; however, they are contemplating changing this to a summer work period of about ten weeks and have a one-month winter vacation. As far as curriculum is concerned, the college is now planning to do away with the few requirements that they do have, among them being language and science requirements for graduation and also majoring prerequisites.

Marlboro College has a general meetings system that has proven very effective. A student speaker is elected for each meeting to act as mediator. Each student then voices his opinion, and in this way there is great participation.

Marlboro College looks toward Bennington for social activities. Several of their students are interested in some of our music courses and hope someday to be able to set up an exchange program between the two colleges. There is a group of seven of their students who attend all of our concerts, and also as many as thirty come to hear our important lectures. In return, they give square dances which this year will be held more frequently than before.

It has gained widespread recognition as an experimental progressive school. Perhaps, because of its proximity, Marlboro is continuously patterning its educational program along the lines of Bennington College.

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## What's New at Noveck's

### Parley With Owner Reveals Latest Acquisitions

Almost as if by instinct, when I was in town the other day, I cruised into Noveck's music store to the strains of "Hoodle Adle". As usual I was just browsing and peering, a fatal pastime for the purse, and felt right at home

### Long Playing Records Available

Perhaps you remember reading this summer about the most recent and amazing developments in the recording world. Well, I skeptically asked Mr. Noveck what he thought the prospects were in regard to the new long-playing records; if they might eventually be available to small town stores, etc. "Oh", said Mr. Noveck, "I have all the available long playing records in stock and the attachments too. Yes indeed." Well, this was really great. Just think! You can now hear your favorite symphony through from start to finish without a break. Forty-five minutes of listening pleasure all on one record.

### New Releases

As if I hadn't been surprised enough by this news, Mr. Noveck went on to tell me that Spike Jones has just made a new disk of his own rare rendition of the "William Tell Overture", and "I Kiss Your Hand Madame". Also, Jo Stafford has recently collaborated with Red Ingle in a record titled "Yob Erutan", (Nature Boy spelled backward). I was dying to hear these two but it was near closing time, so I just continued to chew the rag with Noveck.

Nellie Letcher and her latest, "Hurry On Down", "Cool Water", "The Song is Ended", and others, are constantly changing hands over Noveck's counters as well as Dinah Shore's "Buttons and Bows". Susan Reed folk music albums are doing a rushing business too.

Closing time had come and gone and after hearing about only some of Noveck's stock, which included a large album of the play "Macbeth", with Orson Welles, I decided that it would take all night to hear about Mr. Noveck's complete selection. Having bought the inevitable record by this time, I bid Mr. Noveck goodbye, and started humming the new tune that was in the bag.

M.W.R.

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Friday, Saturday, October 22, 23

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