

# THE BEACON

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## Bennington Students Attend Middlebury Conference

Six student delegates from Bennington last week attended a conference at Middlebury College in Vermont at which fifteen distinguished speakers presented their views on "A Positive Program for a Democratic Society".

Although some of the Bennington delegates were not able to stay for the entire weekend, all of them—Packy Cooke, Cynthia Lee, Corinne Silverman, Ellen St. Sure, Susie Peck and Carol Spence—were able to attend two or more of the four round-table discussions which made up the conference.

### Speakers Eminent in Many Fields

The program for this Seventh Annual Middlebury Conference opened on Saturday morning, April 23, with an address by President Samuel S. Stratton. The keynote address was delivered by the conference moderator, Mr. Houston Peterson, a noted author, lecturer and professor of philosophy at Rutgers University. The first panel of speakers, who discussed "A Positive program for a Democratic Society" on

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## House Chairmen Decide on Seminar

At their first meeting with Judicial Committee this semester, the group of House Chairmen decided upon an experiment in the form of a seminar to be held about three times a term, in which all House Chairmen, the Judicial Committee, and Dr. Fromm and Mr. Hall would meet. In these seminars the House Chairmen will bring up any house problems, discoveries, or ideas which they believe to be interesting and important. Dr. Fromm and Mr. Hall will be present to help in directing the discussion and to give advice on house problems which come up. These problems would be in the category of house disturbances rather than individual problems and would be discussed impersonally by the group, thus getting various opinions through objective conversation.

It is hoped that through these seminars more student ideas will be brought to the attention of the committees and better integration will be achieved between student opinion and committee action.

## Housing Situation No Real Problem

As everyone now knows, the Administration has decided that for next year the college will have to accommodate 50 new students. The Executive Committee was asked to take over and investigate this problem.

### Cricket Hill

Their first proposal was that the faculty in Cricket Hill be moved to other faculty houses or elsewhere, and it be turned into a new student house. Approximately 12 or 13 students can be accommodated there. The question of who would have preference was thrown open to suggestions in each house, but since nothing brilliant was offered, it is still indefinite, although probably Senior Division students will have first choice. These residents will be subject to the same rules and organization as any other house. To facilitate signing in and out, the Watchman's booth will have a new location somewhat further up the drive.

According to the Executive Committee's survey, 338 students can be accommodated in all twelve houses, whereas the old figure was 308. To fit these extra students double decker beds, which can be easily reconverted into two single beds according to the student's desire, will be put in certain single rooms. There has been a great deal of consternation over the revamping of singles as doubles, but in reality it is not so inconvenient. Originally all rooms on campus except about 4 were singles. We have been living happily with roommates in these "singles," and there are many remaining rooms on campus of the same size, such as Wellington or Franklin, which will be the ones to change. Also, three people will be put in the suits in the 4 outside houses. On the whole our rooms can be said to be larger and more comfortable than those in most other colleges.

### Extra Study Space

To give more room and seclusion for studying, the Faculty and Staff lounges in the Barn will be used as additional student study rooms in the evening. Another room will be set aside for typing.

## Executive Committee Prepares For New Students

Among the numerous projects and problems which the Executive Committee is working on this Spring, the one which is demanding most of their attention at present is that of finding accommodations for the fifty new students who will be admitted to Bennington next Fall as a part of the Administration's plans for relieving the College's financial situation.

### Larger Enrollment Presents Problems

Several surveys have been made of the present student housing facilities on campus, the most recent of which was made by the students themselves when they determined at House Meetings the maximum number of students which they felt their own houses could conveniently accommodate. On the basis of these findings, it was decided that Cricket Hill would be made available for student use next Fall. The Executive Committee and the House Chairmen are now attempting to determine the fairest method of choosing the thirteen students who can live in Cricket Hill from among those who apply for rooms there. The prospect of

(Continued on page 6)

## Activities of the Student EPC

The Student E.P.C. has begun a survey of the Non-Resident term as a result of many questions and suggestions which arose in both division meetings and house meetings last term concerning this. It is hoped that the suggestions which come out of this survey will be of some use to both the Non-Resident term office and the student body in solving the problems which have arisen.

Meetings were held by each member of the committee with candidates for senior division in order to clarify, as nearly as possible, the method of applying and the requirements for admission. It was decided by the members of the committee that these meetings, although valuable, would be more effective if they were to be held earlier in the term.

Plans for the future include continued work on the counseling survey and the gathering of valuable information for the public relations office.

## Students Elected, Appointed To Office

Since the results of the regular Community elections were announced in the last issue of the Beacon, several other students have been elected or appointed to Community offices or memberships on committees.

Corinne Silverman has been elected to succeed Sue Worcester as NSA delegate. Several students volunteered for this position and Executive Committee cut the list of volunteers down to the slate of three from which Corinne was elected.

### New Liberal Arts Committee

Many students also volunteered to serve on the Liberal Arts Committee which was voted into existence at the first Community meeting this Spring. From these volunteers the Executive Committee selected Joanne McCallum, Joan DuBrow and Ann Webb for the Committee. The rest of the volunteers will be asked to advise and assist the Committee in its work.

The Community Chest collectors have elected Louise Dickson and Betty Anne Gillett as their Chairman and Secretary, respectively.

Joan Borden has been appointed by the Executive Committee to succeed herself as Fire Chief.

## A Foreign Student for Bennington?

### Drive in Progress to Raise Needed Amount

At the end of last semester the Community voted overwhelmingly to bring a foreign student to Bennington. At that time the Executive Committee appointed three students to serve on a HELP Committee which would be responsible for making all the necessary arrangements.

### College Offers Tuition

These students—Susan Pierce, member of the Executive Committee, Ellen St. Sure, Chairman of Community Chest, and Ruth Lyford, student-at-large, held a number of meetings with Miss Boynton and Miss Shelly at which they discussed the qualifications which a foreign student should have to be accepted at Bennington. They also decided upon scholarship arrangements for this student. The Administration agreed to offer our foreign student a full scholarship which would cover the entire cost of tuition but could not cover

## Judicial Procedure Discussed at Community Meeting

On Monday, April 18, a Community meeting was called to discuss the present expulsion procedure at Bennington College.

Representatives of all the committees involved in the expulsion process were represented at this meeting and presented and clarified the policies, functions and procedures of their respective committee.

President Burkhardt, who was next on the agenda, explained his position in matters of dismissals. Personal opinions which questioned the justice of the expulsion process were then expressed by Mr. Jackson, Lisa Dyer and Elizabeth Ivory.

### Committee to Study Procedure

The Community's interest at this meeting was apparent in the lively discussion period which followed the speakers. During this discussion period, Mr. Kunitz made the motion that a study of the judicial procedure be undertaken with a view to presenting a report to the community. This motion was passed and another motion was then made, in connection with the above, that the student body elect three students and the faculty elect one of its members to serve on a Judicial Procedure Commission. This Commission in its study of our existing procedure would keep in close contact with the House chairmen to get ideas and suggestions from the houses. This motion was also passed, but all other motions presented at the meeting were defeated.

The whole question of community standards and community representation was discussed and such points were clarified as: that the final authority at Bennington College in matters of community standards is community opinion, expressed by our representatives on the Judicial Committee and checked by community vote; that our organization and policy includes periodic or special review of any agency expressing that authority; and that at present there is need for clarification of the sequence of terms now in use from expulsion with dishonorable dismissal (only used for gross plagiarism), thru expulsion without dishonorable dismissal and with the right to apply for readmission at an unspecified later date, to suspension for a given period and the various stages of probation.

### Meeting Seemed Profitable

At the end of the meeting, which lasted a full three hours, the general sentiment of the community seemed to be that the meeting had been a profitable one because many misunderstandings were cleared up and some decisions had been reached as to what actions the Community might take to avoid similar situations arising in the future. Minutes of this meeting will be made available to the Community in the near future.

any of the cost of her room and board. The Committee, speaking for the student body, offered to be responsible for raising through the College Community Chest enough money to cover her room and board and perhaps enough to give her a small allowance. It was decided that \$1000 would cover these expenses, and \$190 of this amount was raised in the Christmas Community Chest drive.

### Committee Gets to Work

Feeling confident that the Community would contribute the rest in the next drive, the Committee wrote the

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James Turner Jackson Faculty Advisor

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Layout—Fanny Parsons

## Rec Council Plans Busy Term

Ping Pong Tournament  
Already Underway

Recreation Council is planning many interesting and varied activities for the next two months. Their aim, this term, is to promote student and faculty activities, such as ping-pong games, tennis tournaments, bridge tournaments, etc. To facilitate their plans, Mt. Brockway has circulated a questionnaire among the faculty, determining to what extent they would enjoy participating in such activities. Following are a few of the activities Rec Council has planned:

## Hike Up Mt. Greylock

Saturday, April 23, Mr. Woodworth acted as Indian guide for a group of six students on an all day hike to Mount Greylock. The group started out at 11:00 and returned shortly before dinner. Despite the rain, they "weathered it well" and a good time was had by all. The college prepared box lunches for an estimated 25, and, as only six students showed up, everyone had plenty to eat!

## Ping-Pong Tournament

Thirty-seven students and 9 faculty members are participating in the ping-pong tournament being held this term. The most skillful players are being brought to the fore, and the play-offs will be held in the near future. We suspect the tournament is only the means to an end, for to the lucky winner will be given a bottle of scotch! (A fifth at least, let us hope.)

## Other Plans

Among the other plans for the term are a faculty-student baseball game, to be held at noon this Sunday on Commons lawn. All interested are invited to show up and prove their prowess. A tennis tournament is planned as soon as the courts are open, which should be in the near future. In addition, a square dance and an amateur night will materialize shortly.

## Spring Dance

One of the most exciting events of the term will be Dance Weekend, May 20 to 22. The price of the ticket will include the following activities: Friday night a variety show, presented by Dance and Drama students, and perhaps some outside talent as well; Saturday afternoon a picnic, with beer and baseball at the cascades, climaxing with cocktail parties at Booth and Dewey; buffet dinner on Commons lawn Saturday night, and an informal baseball game Sunday afternoon. Barbary Coast, Dartmouth's 16 piece orchestra will play at the dance, and, as usual, the State Line will be open afterwards. Rec Council hopes that by this method, all people going to the dance will get to know each other better before the dance. We think it's a good idea and Dance Weekend sounds like fun!

## A Foreign Student for Bennington?

(Continued from page 1)

Institution for International Education to ask that applications of foreign students for admittance to American colleges be sent to them. Several applications were received this spring, but the Committee rejected them all for various reasons. It then decided upon more specific qualifications and wrote the Institution again. This time the Committee asked that it be sent applications only from girls between the ages 18 and 22 who were able to think as well as speak and read in English. It also listed the countries which the students had expressed a preference for when they voted on the admission of a foreign student.

## Membership Changes

In the meantime the status of the original members of this Committee had changed, and these members felt that the Community Chest, the Executive Committee and the student body as a whole should be represented on the Committee. They therefore decided that each Spring, when Community elections are held, the membership of the HELP Committee will change. The new Community Chest Chairman will automatically become a member; the Executive Committee will appoint one of its number as a member; and the houses will submit nominations from which the Executive Committee will select one to serve as a student-at-large on the Committee. The old HELP Committee will also choose one of its members to remain on the new Committee in an ex officio position for one semester. The original Committee felt, however, that they should stay on this semester to help their successors launch this new project. The new student-at-large has not yet been chosen so the Committee as it now stands is composed of Sue Pierce, Ruth Lyforth, Ellen St. Sure, who has been appointed to represent the Executive Committee for the coming year, and Louise Dickson, new Community Chest Chairman.

## Selection Made

This Committee has met several times to read and discuss the latest applications sent to it by the Institution of International Education. Their job of selection was a difficult one, however, for all these applicants seemed to have many fine qualities and any one of them would be a credit to Bennington. They did reach a decision, however, in which the Administration concurred.

## Drive Must Be Successful

If they are to secure this girl for Bennington, however, it will be necessary for them to notify the Institution of their choice immediately—but there is as yet no guarantee that the amount of money needed to bring her here will be available. Her transportation to America will be paid by the Army, her tuition will be given by the College, but the cost of her room and board must be donated by the members of the College Community. A Community Chest drive is now in progress to raise the needed amount, but unless this drive is successful—unless every member of the Community is willing to help—Bennington will not have its foreign student next Fall.

## Description to Follow

Give to your Community Chest today if you have not already done so, and as soon as the results of the current drive are announced, the HELP Committee will know whether or not it can make definite commitments for the foreign student which it has selected. If the necessary money is raised, a full description of this student will appear in the Beacon in the near future.

\* HELP—Higher Education for Lasting Peace

4,319 llamas migrated to southern Peru last winter.

## Senior Projects High Brow

Carrie Nation didn't dance. Barbara Corey is dancing Carrie's life for her senior project. Barbara spent her winter term in Kansas, studying Carrie Nation in order to form a background for her dance. She found that the fanatic prohibitionist's mother was insane, her first husband a dipsomaniac; this led to Carrie becoming a fanatic herself. When the dance is presented in dance workshop, Barbara will also display letters and mementos she has collected.

British Balance of Payments, Foreign Trade, imports and exports, historical aspects, convertability of sterling, Lend Lease, the British Loan, is Sue Pierce's thesis.

Ceramics: a pictorial tile map of the United States in color and in slight relief has been made by Edith Dulles. Forty tiles make up the whole, showing the main industries of each state.

Phyllis Sidenberg sent a questionnaire to fifty students, to find the aspiration level of Bennington College students. She asked them to rank college offices according to prestige, and also to choose offices they would like to have. The result of these two questions showed the aspiration level. She also asked about family status: attitudes of parents towards children, children's attitudes towards parents, criticism of parents, number of children in family, etc. The answers showed that family status influences aspiration levels. Election to Judicial Committee was the highest aspiration of most of the students.

Mary Lou White, a prominent member of the drama department, is majoring in acting. The main part of her project is the part she plays in "Blood Wedding", the full-length production to be presented soon. She is also playing a role in the play Felicia Warburg is directing. Comedy interests her, so she is also doing a scene from Congreve's "The Way of the World", which will be presented along with Felicia Warburg's and Irene Moore's projects on June 29th.

## Campus News

## Four Engagements

This week we can report that four fortunate young men will soon have Bennington brides. Canfield, Swan, Kilpat and Booth each have an engagement to announce.

Sue Coblenz will marry Dr. Stephen Lawrence A. Gumport on July twenty-fourth.

Marty Irvin is engage to Jerry Cole, a senior at Williams and captain of the golf team. They plan to be married sometime in the fall.

Suzanne Parker and Wilbur Gutterson will be married in September. Her fiancé is a Phi Beta Kappa at Harvard Business School.

At a large party in Swan House on Sunday afternoon Irma Hegerman's engagement to Peter M. Thexton was announced. They will be married in St. Louis on July second. Peter, a D. U. graduate from Williams this June.

## First Inter-House Party

Welling House entertained Woolley House Saturday afternoon at a champagne punch party. This is the first of the many proposed house parties which had been inaugurated this term.

## Badges and Parades

Dewey House celebrated Easter with a parade. Very chic and original hats created with lamp shades, silk scarfs, ribbons and brushes topped off the blue jeans. Among the most interesting were chapeaux entitled, "Shy," "Buttons and Beaux," "Cossack's Mother" and "Easter Tart." Dewey is also carrying on an intensive "I Don't Walk On Grass" campaign. To date seven members have earned blue badges for meritorious hewing to the paths and Evie Penney and Lisa Dyer were presented with gold badges for the week's improvement.

McCullough College took time off

c/o R. S. V. P.

Letter Box

22 April 1949

Dear Damned Annoyed:

Thanks for your letter in the current issue of The Beacon. Of course, I'm sorry the letter was necessary, but I'm glad you wrote it. I believe that there has been more avoidable noise recently.

I agree that the Library should be as quiet as possible, although, believe it or not, we've occasionally had complaints that it was too hush-hush.

We do have problems such as: 1) there is no sound proofing; 2) the walls are thin; 3) the floors squeak; 4) the doors are poorly constructed; 5) the area around the desk is congested and cannot be closed off; and 6) the telephones make an ungodly racket. All of these physical problems (and there are a lot more the library staff has to contend with) are due to the fact that the library quarters were constructed as cheaply as possible because, in 1932, it was expected that these quarters were temporary and that within a few years Bennington would have an adequate library building. That was 1932—this is 1949.

As to the whispering - talking, I think you are right. To be sure, whispering bothers some people more than talking, and strange misunderstandings come out of whispered conversations. (ever play "Scandal"?)

I'd like to suggest that we revive the policy which I thought was still in existence, but which probably has been overlooked, or forgotten, by some of us. That is, since the Library should be as quiet as possible, any one who is being disturbed by talking or whispering should feel free to shush the offender, or to request a member of the Library Staff to do so. If by any unfortunate but perfectly possible chance, a librarian is the offender, please tell us; we do mean to cooperate.

And here's a suggestion, D. A. Don't leave your shoes and notebooks in an aisle for some one to trip over; that makes a fiendish noise.

Yours for a lower decibel count,

(Mrs.) Gladys Y. Leslie  
Librarian

To the Editor:

We thought you might be interested in a little local news for the "Beacon".

J— K— has just announced her engagement to Mr. W— W— of Hartford, Conn.

(signed) B— House

Dear Miss St. Sure,

If anyone puts a note in your box announcing my engagement, IT IS NOT TRUE, so please don't put it in the Beacon.

Love  
J— K—

Bennington Students  
Working with Town ChildrenAssistants Wanted To Teach  
Crafts and Games

A group of Bennington students are working with children at the Church of God in Bennington. They devote two hours in the afternoon once a week to working with children. These children are divided into one of boys and girls from six to nine and one of older girls.

Louise Dickson, Bennington freshman who worked in a settlement house in Boston this winter, said after working with these children that "they appear not to have had any experience in arts and crafts or organized games before. They have much more appreciation than the city children I worked with this winter."

More volunteers are needed. Already working are Louise Dickson, Helen Taylor, Frankie Paine and Evelyn Penny. Other girls have worked occasionally. If anyone is interested she should get in touch with Helen Taylor or Louise Dickson.

from their recent Plato discussions to hold a party Friday night. Jane Hull, a member of the "college" has made plans in view of the room situation to triple with the broom and the vacuum in the mop closet next semester.

## Two Accepted in Grad. School

Swan House takes great pride in announcing that two of their seniors have been accepted at graduate schools: Bobbie Goldberg at Yale School of Architecture and Rita Gillette at Johns Hopkins for chemistry.

**Grand Illusion**

is the movie to be presented in the theater May 14.  
The situation—a group of French prisoners interned in a German camp during World War One.

Social Implications—the futility of war, brotherhood of the common man.  
EXAMPLE:

the German colonel stresses the fact that he and the French officers have more in common than does the french officer and his French civilian colleagues.

A French movie made in 1939 directed by Jean Renoir.  
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Pierre Fresnay  
Eric von Stronheim.

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**Book Review**

**The Melodramatists**  
by Howard Nemerov

There have been many reviews of Mr. Nemerov's book already, reviews which say that he "effectively holds many of the sillier pretensions of both religion and psychology up to ridicule", that the book "is nothing less than an allegory of the collapse of bourgeois society", that it is a "search for a Way of Life". These reviews pretty generally agree that although the book "conveys an impression of brilliance and talent" it is "unsuccessful as a whole". These comments are rather difficult to interpret, however. Apparently the critics are expressing an attitude which is both honest and sincere, but it is never made quite clear just what they are being honest and sincere about.

If it is not the style (and they don't seem to think it is) which makes **The Melodramatists** unsuccessful, then it must be the structure or the content. It is not difficult to see that the content might not be too pleasing to some (there seems to be some rumor that it will be banned in Boston) but it is, in general, very effective if at times somewhat harsh. On the whole the structure is very tight, the story moves forward steadily and never loses the tension established in the first few pages, and the use of plot and counter-plot, action and reaction is excellent.

The dialogue and the action complement each other, and there are such marvelous scenes as the one in which Mr. Boyne is being God in the bath-tub while his family frantically try to remove him, and the one in which discussion of love is carried on by the prisoners in the attic while Mrs. Fosker carries out the same theme on quite another level below. The prose is precise and very witty, and although often

**The New Perception**

(Dedicated to Ben Belitt)

Black behinds have  
Swished respectfully  
For years  
On Boston's Beacon Hill  
And will  
For years to come they think  
Until  
I dress up as William Blake  
And lead my tiger  
Bombastically down Tremont Street  
On sodden feet  
Until  
I show Boston unrestraint;  
Show Lucretia how to faint  
Seductively,  
So that a Cabot  
Averse to his general occult habits  
Will leap from his car and crush her  
hotly  
In his arms and kiss her on the mouth.  
Lucretia, being creme de creme  
Will doubtlessly shock all of them  
Into newer styles of mimicry  
And then I can throw out  
The eighteenth century clothes  
Take my tiger back to the zoo  
And rent again  
My favorite forty rooms on Louisburg  
Square.

very complex its complexity does not in the least detract from its effect. The novel in its entirety is very carefully woven, and although there may occasionally be some question about its strength (for instance the relationship of Susan and Hogan) there are no loose threads. **The Melodramatists** is a difficult book, and should be read more than once before it can really be understood. Perhaps it is because of this difficulty that it has been called "unsuccessful", perhaps it is because it is really too good.

**Deacon Winner of Beacon Dinner**

Richard Deacon, drama student at Bennington College, and his guest Carol Bressler, enjoy steak dinners and champagne at Raleigh's Restaurant in Bennington. Jimmy Raleigh, owner of the restaurant, donated these dinners as a prize for the winner of the Beacon's recent subscription lottery.

**RALEIGH**

Wayte Tress Cries, 1949

**I Get What I Can**

A Ballad of Domestic Probity\*

"What do you DO if your uniform's small?"

Said Bennington's frustrated freshman.

"This is the first time I've been here at all.

Do I go right on in or just wait 'til they call?

Are you stationed, too, in the Blue dining hall?"

"I am where I am", said Our Vera.

"Where are the dishes you use to set up?"

Said Bennington's frustrated freshman.

("Whoever invented this bilious get-up?")

Do you have to put saucers with ev'ry tea cup?

If you do, is there room on the tray?"

"I do what I can", said Our Vera.

"Who is that girl throwing juice at the wall?"

Said Bennington's frustrated freshman.

"Does she always do that? Has she manners at all?"

"The one over there. . . Next to Lou Frankenthall

Or is it her natural way?"

"I think what I think", said Our Vera

"I am where I am, I do what I can,

I think what I think," said Our Vera, "And the thing that is dearest in life to me

In the Blue Dining Hall is Probity;

However . . .

I'll let down the hem when a uniform's shrinkin'.

And swipe someone's silver without even thinkin'.

I get what I can. Mrs. Hill is my Keeper.

And "borrowing" hair nets is just so much cheaper.

But the semblance of virtue has got to stay

Or someone will take my station away. My Station! My Station! Forever!"

"It's not good taste in a girl like me," Said Bennington's Probitized Freshman

"To question Our Vera's purity

Or to mention a thing like Integrity, But I know what I like to a large degree

(Though, Gee, I hate to cramp her;) For two lousy terms and a few paltry bucks.

I've shared her station. I say shucks, I never could follow her tactics—

Her unmitigated tactics.

For this as you know, is the BLUE dining Hall

And the girls who come in here are nicest of all

And though Vera's Probity I hate to waylay

I owe a little to Mike and my pay.

And after all,

It's my Hall. . . ."

"We'll see whose it is," said Our Vera.

\*Patterned after E. B. White's I PAINT WHAT I SEE—A Ballad of Artistic Integrity—1899

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TOP HAT

in North Hoosick

**"Love Thy Neighbor" Says Speaker**

The first Social Science Seminar of the term was held in Franklin living-room on Friday evening, April 22, when Dr. Ashley Montague spoke to a large student-faculty group on "The Social Biology of Love and Cooperation." Dr. Montague is a teacher of Anatomy at the Hahnemann Medical College in Philadelphia, a professor of Social Anthropology at the New School for Social Research, and author of many books and articles.

Dr. Montague began his talk by stating that the fundamentally social nature of all living beings lies in the "physiological relationship between parent and offspring." He said that the foundation of the social relationship which characterizes all living things lies in the reproductive process and all that it implies, for reproduction is based on the "interrelationship of an interdependent nature" which induces the dependency of one organism upon another.

The infant depends on the parent for response to its organic needs. The need for love originates in the impulses of the dependency state, for the infant loves those who satisfy his needs. As he becomes socialized, he becomes more and more dependent rather than free, and social 'binding' continues thus throughout life. This is good, for a person is one who has developed under the influence of social interstimulation and inter-dependence. Dr. Montague made a distinction between the terms **person** and **individual**. The **individual**, he said, is an organic being who does not exist in a group. We in America believe that man should become more independent with age, and become a "rugged individualist." The speaker felt that we are defying our biological drives by wanting man to stand apart from others, for **persons** are those whose bonds are with other human beings. One of the many very appropriate quotations that the speaker cited to illustrate his points was a section of John Donne's "Devotions"—

"No man is an Island, entire of itself, every man is a piece of the Continent, a part of the Main. . . any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in Mankind; and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee."

Dr. Montague disagreed with Spencer's and Huxley's sociological interpretation of Darwin's theory of survival of the fittest for he believes that the competitive struggle for existence does not characterize human behavior. Cooperation is the most important factor in the survival of animal groups, for, had it not been the strongest force, the more complicated animals could never have evolved from the simple one-celled organisms. He stated that science shows us that the only path toward survival and happiness is through love and cooperation, for without love there cannot be healthy social behavior or security. "To love thy neighbor as thyself" is not merely a good Sunday School sermon but a "very sound biological principle" founded on the organism's drive to satisfy its basic needs. If a child's basic urges have not been satisfied in the first six years of his life (especially in the first two years) great damage has been done, for the unloved child can develop into the inadequate

**News of Mr. Fergusson**  
**Former Bennington Faculty**  
**Receives Directorship**

Mr. Francis Fergusson has recently been made Director of the Cummington School of the Arts in Cummington, Massachusetts. Mr. Fergusson taught Drama and Literature at Bennington from 1934 until last year when he received a year's appointment to the Princeton Institute for Advanced Study.

The Cummings School of the Arts, of which Mr. Fergusson is now director, each summer offers thirty students of college age or older eight weeks of practice and study in music, painting and writing under the direction of eminent authors and artists.

The school is made up of visiting as well as resident artists. Mr. Fergusson, as a resident, is chairman of the Writing department, and the visiting writers include Allen Tate, Caroline Gordon, Karl Shapiro, John Horne Burns and Elliott Coleman. Other visiting artists and lecturers include Alfred Einstein, Max Schoen, Bruce Simonds, Hugo Kortschak, and George Brown for Painting, Karl Knaths, another former member of the Bennington faculty.

social being. Those persons who failed their children when they were in need, have "committed real treason," for they have developed the "affectionless child," the child who cannot love. Dr. Montague stated that the juvenile delinquents and criminals who demonstrate overt hostility and hatred towards others were usually such "affectionless" children.

Of course, as the speaker pointed out, aggressiveness does exist and must exist in nature, and frustration is both inevitable and desirable. However, there is also a "nonruthless competition" in nature and this kind of competition, along with our drives toward cooperative behavior, operates to develop the **person**. No potentialities adequately satisfied can be evil, for with the proper satisfaction a person becomes a "loving human being, who feels affection toward all living things."

In discussing means of reaching the highest development of our potentialities as human beings, Dr. Montague felt one of the solutions lies in the reorganization of education. He felt that every school should be an institution of human relations, a preparation for living—not merely an academic orientation toward living. All branches of specialized knowledge he believes to be no more than different aspects of the "same universe"—each branch having an interrelationship with all the others. Dr. Montague felt that the **art of living** is something to be learned, for "people should be more out-going and embracing of their fellow men." One of the most encouraging and refreshing points emphasized by Dr. Montague throughout his speech was that "all of **man's natural inclinations** are toward the development of **goodness**," and that drives of love and cooperation are within him at birth, and all they need is cultivation. The speaker was extremely well received and the audience was particularly impressed with his charm and spontaneous wit, as well as his clarity of presentation. The seminar was followed by an unusually lengthy discussion period, and a group of twenty students called on Dr. Montague the following day to carry on further discussion with him.

High Brow, Middle Brow, or Low Brow?	
With grateful bows to Life Magazine and with thumb on nose to the Williams Purple Cow, the Beacon presents its classifications of Brow personalities at Bennington. We have deliberately generalized as much as possible in order to avoid any direct hints for mascara or tweezer tactics.	
Organizations	
High Brow	None
Middle Brow	Silo
Low Brow	N.S.A., S.D.A., Y.D.A., ping pong tournaments
Clothes	
High Brow	Sandles
Middle Brow	Levis
Low Brow	"Bennington" Sweat Shirts
Hair	
High Brow	Hogtied, earthy
Middle Brow	Feather cut
Low Brow	Long hair, sometimes curled
Music Groups	
High Brow	Couperin, Monteverdi
Middle Brow	Tchaikovski, "Kiss Me, Kate"
Low Brow	Burl Ives, Brother Bones
Dates	
High Brow	Theatre Guild
Middle Brow	Yale, Princeton, etc.
Low Brow	Union, R.P.I. (we fooled you, didn't we, Williams?)
Frustrated	Williams
Distinguishing Marks	
High Brow	Pierced ears and bare feet
Middle Brow	Cigaret holders
Low Brow	Fraternity pins
Drinks	
High Brow	Brandy, sherry
Middle Brow	Old Fashioneds
Low Brow	Seabreeze
Room Decoration	
High Brow	Expressionist sculpture and paintings done by friends
Middle Brow	Cezanne, Van Gogh reproductions
Low Brow	Balloons and schmoos
Meals	
High Brow	Dry cereal, black coffee
Middle Brow	No starch or dessert
Low Brow	Seconds on everything
Headaches	
High Brow	Cliches
Middle Brow	Three beastly papers due in two days.
Low Brow	Hangovers
Magazines	
High Brow	Furioso
Middle Brow	Vogue
Low Brow	Comics, Purple Cow
Majors	
High Brow	Literature and Arts
Middle Brow	Social Science
Low Brow	Marriage
Favorite Hangouts	
High Brow	Swan House
Middle Brow	Commons
Low Brow	Cricket Hill
Preferred Hour	
High Brow	3 a. m.
Middle Brow	Cocktail hour
Low Brow	General Stark time

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**NESGA Conference**

Representative—Petrie Manning

The New England Student Government Association, called NESGA, held its first meeting at Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut, over the weekend of April 9th. The conference was the first of its kind to be held in the New England region, and the colleges represented were: Bennington Connecticut College, Dartmouth, Holy Cross, Massachusetts State, Mount Holyoke, Smith, Rhode Island State, Trinity, Wesleyan and University of Vermont.

The purpose of the NESGA Conference was to discuss Student Government problems with the hope that answers and suggestions might be presented.

The problem that pertained most closely to any of Bennington's needs was the topic Faculty Ratings. There was a definite split from the colleges represented as to the validity of these student-faculty ratings. It was felt very strongly that these ratings could be of a definite value to both students and faculty only if they were done with the idea that faculty wanted to know what the students were gaining from their courses. The big questions were: Do these faculty ratings really tell the faculty anything beyond how popular they are? and How do students know whether the things they are getting from class are what they need, and how will they ever know if the course was a good one until they get out into the "big wide world" and try to apply what they have learned?

Our mid-term evaluation reports were a suggestion that was accepted quite readily by the whole group at the conference, and many of the representatives decided to take the suggestion back to their colleges for further study.

One other idea that came from Bennington and which appealed to the group was the fact that ours is a Community Government rather than a Student Government. The idea that faculty and staff should have a voice in the college government excited and impressed many representatives at NESGA.

Bennington had nothing to say when the question of supporting charities arose. Although Bennington was the smallest of the colleges represented, our ratio of donations was much lower than those of the other colleges. Our donations per year were up to those of other colleges but other colleges also had Charity Fairs, a bazaar, a dance, or sold some kind of gadget to raise additional money. None of the aforementioned ideas might work here but there must be something we can do. How about a Variety show with college talent sponsored by our Community Chest with attendance by the college and the town of Bennington?

Many other individual campus problems were discussed and the only college that didn't seem to have any problems was Smith (everything was simply "dee-light-ful" there!)

The closing topic at NESGA was: Is this kind of Association worthwhile? It was felt the NESGA had done an excellent job at this conference but the purpose of the conference ran fairly

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**Bennington Students Attend Middlebury Conference**

(Continued from page 1)

a philosophical level, included Bartlett Hayes, Jr., director of the Addison Gallery of American Art at Phillips Andover Academy; Dr. Frederick Wertham, a noted New York psychiatrist and neurologist; George F. Thomas, professor of religious thought at Princeton University; W. T. Stace, professor of philosophy at Princeton; and Florence M. Kelley, an attorney for the Legal Aid Society in New York. Their speeches and a discussion of them occupied the morning session. In the afternoon the domestic aspects of the topic under discussion were presented by John Chalmers, a Middlebury graduate now teaching economics at Kenyon College in Ohio; Claude E. Hawley, PhD, Chief for Social Science in the Office of Education of the Federal Security Agency; Theodore E. Brown, director of research for the International Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters; and Burnham O'Rourke, Assistant to the Employee Relations Department of the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey. Senator Ralph E. Flanders of Vermont was also scheduled to speak briefly, reserving the major part of his remarks for the Sunday morning session, but he arrived too late to participate very actively in this panel. Saturday night an informal reception was held at which those attending the conference had an opportunity to meet and pursue further discussion with the speakers.

**Pulitzer Prize Winner**

On Sunday when international problems were discussed and a summary of the conference was presented, the speakers included Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., assistant professor of history at Harvard University and Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Age of Jackson*; Charles M. LaFollette, lawyer, lecturer and ex-Republican Representative from Indiana; Edgar A. Mowrer, a widely-travelled syndicated columnist; Dr. David L. Thomson, professor of biochemistry at McGill University; and Senator Flanders.

**Value to Bennington**

The Bennington delegates found the panel discussions and their informal discussions with several of the speakers Saturday night extremely interesting, and they were particularly impressed with the cordial hospitality extended to them by the Middlebury students. The value of Bennington representation at such a conference would seem to be twofold, for not only were these Bennington students able to hear and talk with the conference speakers (some of whom, it is hoped, may be invited to speak at Bennington in the near future), but also they had an opportunity to meet a number of students from a college which differs greatly from Bennington in many respects, to compare notes with them, and to correct some of the misconceptions which those students had previously formed about Bennington.

close to one of the main purposes of the N. S. A. Thus it was decided to wait until after the next Regional N. S. A. conference (May 7th) to see if NESGA should continue to function as such. If N. S. A. does as much to help student governments with their problems as did NESGA at this conference then all colleges should benefit greatly through closer contact with other colleges in their region.

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### Student Turns Hobby Into Business

Helen Johnson, a junior at Bennington, has started a photography business. Helen started, as do most people, with the usual box camera. When she got to Bennington and found several girls in her house who were interested in photography, she developed the photography "bug". She then proceeded to take a course in this subject. From this course, she evolved the philosophy that photography is an art of appreciation. She says, "A photographer appreciates something and records it through the media of the camera. Photography is not a creative art *per se*."

Helen now has her own enlarger and Agrofex, Kodak Bantam and Filmo 16 cameras. One of the empty rooms in Swan House is used as a dark room. She is primarily interested in movie technique, although as yet she had no outstanding success in this field. She hopes to make use of the movie camera in dance. Helen is a psychology major, and she plans to use photography in her senior thesis. She also claims that psychology is an aid in portrait work.

**Would You Like to Have Your Picture Taken?**

People have often asked Helen to take pictures for them so she has decided to standardize her photography hobby into a business with set rates. Students are under no obligation to pay her for their proofs. A fee of \$2 is charged for each print and \$1 for each additional print as long as the negative is the same. She prints pictures 5x7 or 8x10. The size has nothing to do with the rates.

Helen says that the proportion of pictures she likes to those that she takes is small. She considers photography as entirely aesthetic and non-functional.

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### Patience, Courage and Fortitude

by Sue Miller

It seems to me I've really got this date situation pretty well fixed up. It's taken three years of careful maneuvering and experimenting, but I've certainly found a solution.

Dates usually fall into two categories. The rarer type is the tall, well-built lad with the stimulating personality and the honest grey eyes, whom you love beyond a shadow of a doubt. Then there is that prolific specimen who appears every Saturday evening and doggedly implores you to "just have one beer". Coexistent with the weekly apparition is the "phoner", who calls you on Monday evening to ask you out next Saturday or even two Saturdays from now.

What to do is another question. Those fortunate women whose dates are the gray-flannel gods of the first category are doubtless satisfied to "just be near him", whether it's in orchids at the 1896 House or in jeans (were this proper) at the State Line. Of course, it is the second category which presents the difficulty.

Now some of you less practical girls may say, "Tell the apparition to go to smith", but this is inhumane and, besides, he might have an attractive friend. Don't be mean. Just go upstairs, and put on your prettiest dress and best shade of lipstick. Then ask Friend Apparition what he had in mind for the evening. He will undoubtedly leer and say, "It's all up to you, Baby." Apparitions haven't much imagination. Then you, Baby, can choose the place of your whims. The State Line, The Merry-Go-Round, Delaney's, The Crestwood, or The Top Hat. If you see too many critical friends in the State Line, remember suddenly (but demurely) that you just hate the S. L. because the air conditioning is bad for your sinus. Then off you go to the M.G.R. Of course, if F. A. happens to be broke, there's always the "Blue Room" on campus, where the prices are low. You can have a congenial chat under the stars, and, chances are, if you really can't bear him, when the dew sets in and the night breezes blow, he'll become uncomfortable. Just keep insisting that it's never been lovelier, and give him pneumonia generously. He'll take the hint.

The "phoner" is a little more difficult. If you decide that being seen with him would seriously cramp your style and damage your pride, say, "Oh Elmer, I'm going to Yale next weekend". He'll reply that you must be mistaken, as Yale is on vacation. You're trapped. So, giggle cutely and admit you were joking. Now, you can say that you'd love to go down to the Stork Club or the "21" and wouldn't it be fun to tear off to New York on Saturday? This may scare him, but phoners are pretty adept at changing subjects. Why I remember the time I told one that I was in the mood for a steak dinner with champagne, and couldn't we do that on Saturday night? He said, "Well gosh, thanks a lot. I'd love to." Well, I ended up with a \$20 bill. At any rate (ouch), my point is that you can't fight these phoners, so say yes. However, there is a cure. Twelve of us in my house were besieged by them, so we decided to entertain our respective dates in our "Pyramid Club". When they arrived, we appeared in our yellow gym suites of boarding school days, and took them out on Commons lawn to build anatomical pyramids. I dared my date to be top man on the totem pole, and, when he shakily ascended over the twenty-third body and stood heroically on top, I, being bottom body, twitched, very subtly, mind you. Then all the girls in the pyramid started wiggling, still very subtly, naturally. My date landed on his little pointed head, and tactfully done, I never had to worry about that phoner again.

So you see, it's all a matter of ingenuity and individuality. Men simply have to be handled firmly, shrewdly.

By the way, does anyone know where I could find a date for next Saturday?

### Executive Committee Prepares For New Students

(Continued from page 1)

an enlarged enrollment has also presented other problems, such as dining space, size of classes, etc., which are also being considered by the Executive Committee, the EPC and others.

**Nominations by Petition**

When at the last Community Meeting it was decided that a student-faculty committee should be set up to study our judicial proceedings, it became the duty of Executive Committee to conduct an election. In calling for nominations for this committee, the Executive Committee asked that, as an experiment, the nominations be presented by petition rather than through House Meetings as has been done in the past. This method may or may not prove to be an improvement over the other, but in any case, it was felt that such an innovation, which may have definite advantages over the old system, should be tried out on a small scale such as this so that it may be evaluated by the Community and perfected or discarded before Community government elections are held at the end of the semester.

**Freshman Handbook**

Another project which the Executive Committee is working on is that of preparing a new Freshman Handbook to be sent during the summer to each incoming freshman and transfer. Many suggestions for this Handbook have already been received, and a number of students will be asked to help with its preparation.

**Suggestions from Houses**

Also many valuable criticisms and suggestions pertaining to innumerable other matters have come out of House Meetings recently. These have been relayed to Executive Committee by the House Chairmen, and all are being turned over to the proper committees to be handled and acted upon by them.

**Bennington Sends Delegates to Barnard Conference**

Betsy Palmedo and Cynthia Lee this past weekend attended an intercollegiate conference at Barnard College in New York City. The topic of this fifteen-college conference was "Power Politics in the Far East." Discussion was carried on within four panels Saturday morning, then summarized in a critique in the afternoon. These panels included one in U. S. Policy in China, Korea and Japan, one on USSR Policy in these three countries, one on European intervention and actions in South East Asia, and one on the opposing policies and actions of the United States and Russia with regard to Japan.

### The Red Cross Still Needs Our Blood

The apparent end of the war has by no means put an end to fighting and natural calamity throughout the world. Many people are still on the verge of bleeding to death, and as long as it has the blood with which to save them, the Red Cross is there with a pint of blood. There is not, however, a limitless supply of blood, and unfortunately, so far nothing has been discovered as a satisfactory substitute for blood. The Red Cross is still solely dependent on donated blood. They are asking us, please, if possible, to part with a pint of our own!

We at Bennington have an opportunity to give blood, and are urged, if we are not anemic, to do so. The procedure is quite simple. If you are under twenty one, it is first necessary to get your parents permission. Contact Louise Dickson, chairman of the Community Chest, who will make an appointment for you any Tuesday or Friday at 4:00 p. m. Transportation will be provided to the Bennington hospital. People with negative type blood are especially urged to donate blood, as it is rarer and harder to obtain.

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Saturday, May 7

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THE SPOILERS Marlene Dietrich, John Wayne

Sunday, May 8

YOU GOTTA STAY HAPPY Joan Fontaine, James Stewart

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, May 9, 10, 11

LITTLE WOMEN June Allyson, Elizabeth Taylor