

THE BEACON

Published Every Other Week by Students of the Bennington College Community.

May 19, 1949, Vol. 3, No. 4

Bennington College, Bennington, Vermont

15 cents per copy

Faculty Group, Little Known To Students, Discusses Academic Problems

The Faculty Committee, a group which seems to be almost unknown to the student body, is a self-convening organization that meets to discuss problems. The faculty of each major field nominate two of their members and the faculty at large elects one from each field to serve on the committee.

The members go back to their divisions for suggestions. They discuss what they want from the administration and propose the agenda for general faculty meetings. The Committee is not a policy making body, but makes recommendations to the administration.

As a result of studies made this year of the faulty work load, in counseling and tutorial system and the report plan several changes were made. This group works closely with the faculty E. P. C.

Present members of this committee include Mr. Bales, Mr. Coburn, Mr. Hall, Mr. Kessler and Mr. Matthen.

Der Dybbuk

will be here May 24, 1949.

The dybbuk (Pronunciation: "dee-book.") in Yiddish folklore is a disembodied soul, denied peace in after life because of earthly transgressions, seeking refuge in the body of one it has loved.

Der Dybbuk is a Jewish folk play written in 1918 by Solomon Rappaport (pseud. S. Ansky), into which the myth of the dybbuk is woven. A youth's dybbuk in a moment of sexual supernaturalism enters his beloved's body as she stands at the altar being married to his rival. He has made a Faustian arrangement with Satan to die and become a dybbuk so that he can by entering her body neutralize her free will. And the climax occurs in the struggle to release her body from his dybbuk.

Produced in Poland with native players. Premier in the United States January 1938.

Time Magazine, February 7, 1938 comments:

As a study and an unintended incident of the forms and symbols that circumscribe its people, **the Dybbuk**, is important. As cinema it is tedious; technically crude, lacking in coherence. Here and there are pictorial groupings interesting enough in themselves, but poorly related in the general clutter of hyper-religious abracadabra and the familiar hocus-focus of third-rate melodrama.

The Saturday Review of Literature's Film Forum, October 30, 1948, says:

Ansky's dramatization of an ancient Jewish story is a masterpiece of Yiddish literature, and the screen version is equally important in its field.

Localites Star in Variety Show

On the night of April 29th and 30th the P. T. A. of North Bennington presented a Variety Show in the auditorium of the North Bennington High School. As in former years many faculty members and friends of the college participated.

The theme of the show concerned activities aboard a pleasure liner. There was no central plot but rather it was a series of acts including singing, tap dancing, story telling and the like. Danny Fager sang "Old Man River" and "Because" greeted by enthusiastic audience support. The two beauties of the show were Mrs. Hanks and Mrs. Holt who snapped at each other in

amusing dialogue as rival opera stars. They were fetchingly dressed in turn of the century costumes and mammoth plumed hats.

The piece de resistance, however, was the finale number presented by the "Ballet Rustic de North Bennington" of which Mr. Hanks is a valued member. The "ballerines" were stunningly costumed in form fitting bodices and bouffant skirts of white "tulle."

Other members of the cast included Mrs. Feeley, Mrs. Hyman, Mr. and Mrs. Ted Goodman. Mr. Woodworth and his two sons composed half of the orchestra, and Mrs. Kunitz, Mrs. Alvin and some drama students aided with makeup.



Photo by Lloyd

Mr. and Mrs. Hanks Strike a Pose from PTA Variety Show

Foreign Student Drive Successful

German Girl is Awarded Bennington Scholarship

As a result of the Community's generous response to the latest College Community Chest drive, an outstanding foreign student from Germany has been asked to come to Bennington for one year starting next Fall.

Several weeks ago the HELP Committee, composed at present of four students, including Louise Dickson, chairman of Community Chest, chose this student from among the many applications of foreign students for admission to American colleges which they had received from the Institute of International Education. Until this week, there was considerable doubt as to whether this student could be secured for Bennington, for the College could not make definite commitments for her until the outcome of the Community Chest drive was known, and it was not certain that she would be available this late in the Spring. The HELP Committee was so anxious to secure this student for Bennington that they offered to be personally responsible for the success of the Community Chest drive, which was to raise the amount needed to pay for her room and board, and Miss Boynton, Director of Admissions, therefore wrote the Institute that the College would award the student a full scholarship covering her room, board and tuition for one year.

When the plan to bring a foreign student to Bennington was first proposed last Fall, the Administration offered to give her full scholarship to cover her tuition if the Community would supply the money necessary to pay for her room and board. The HELP Committee decided at this time that it would be desirable to raise enough money beyond the minimum amount of \$750 required for room and board for a student living in a double room to give her a single room as well as a small allowance. They felt that \$1000 would cover all these expenses, and \$182.00 of this amount was raised in the last Fall Community Chest drive, the bulk of which went to the Employees' Christmas Fund. The first Spring Drive, held just before Long Weekend, was devoted exclusively to raising money for the Foreign Student Scholarship Fund, and on March 14 the Community Chest reported that it had received \$776.31 in their latest drive thus bringing the total to \$958.31.

While this drive was in progress, Miss Boynton sent a letter to the In-

(Continued on page 4)

S.O.S. from the Sinking Blue Pantry

Some evening when going up to dinner, perhaps we will be surprised to find the dining halls still looking like the deserted picnic grounds they resemble after lunch every day. Mrs. Hill will have given her final gasp in a plea for waitresses to clean and set up after our noon meals. As it is, Mrs. Hill and Mrs. Wilson are hoarse from asking students every noontime, "Can you possibly wait on this noon?"

If there are any students who have one noon a week free and could take on a station at lunch, will they please let Mrs. Hill know immediately. You will be doing the community and Mrs. Hill a great service, and looking at it from your own point of view that waiting-on check every month looks pretty terrific, even as a surprise windfall.

Mademoiselle's College Forum on Freedom and Security

"Freedom and security are slogan words," said Joseph Barnes, former editor of the New York newspaper Star. "Mistrust for one day the infallibility of the wisdom of the speakers you will hear today—see what they each mean by these words. . . Today is "market" day in ideas. . . we can buy what we want. . . and we have above all a freedom to learn, to inquire and to differ among ourselves."

This was the keynote of the Mademoiselle Forum held at the Hotel Commodore in New York City on April 30. The list of speakers was an imposing one and the students present no less distinguished in their participation in student government and community activities. The students came from as far

(Continued on page 2)

Sondra Parkoff Wins Guest Editorship

Sondra Parkoff, a sophomore and political economy major at Bennington, last Saturday received a telegram from Miss Nancy Garoutte, College Board Editor of **Mademoiselle**, informing her that she had won one of the twenty guest editorships offered by the magazine as grand prizes for its annual College Board Contest. "Sonny" does not yet know which of the twenty editorial positions she will be assigned to, but she, together with the 19 other winners, will go to New York in June to spend several weeks working on the August issue. Further details of Sonny's award will appear in the **Beacon** next week.

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THE BEACON

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Grinding Gone; Gaiety Great — Dance Weekend

Dance weekend plans indicate sustained merriment starting Friday, the 20th of May and ending Sunday, the 22nd. The weekend was organized by the newly elected Recreation Council made up of Janet Roosevelt, Sue Peck and Marcia Sue Black, Committee chairman chosen by the Recreation Council include Joyce Berger, decorations; Marie O'Donnell, tickets; Martha Holt, refreshments; Joanne Evans, cocktail parties.

Variety Show Promises Friday Hilarity

A variety show will be held in the Theatre Friday evening. Song and dance acts and a community sing will be presented through the Dance and Drama departments.

Will We Ever Have Time To Take in All the Saturday Fun?

Saturday there will be either a lunch picnic or an after-lunch beer-potato chip picnic at the Cascades. Also baseball and swimming will help us limber up for the cocktail parties and the dance. Cocktail parties (rumors of champagne punch) will be held in Booth and Dewey at 5 p.m. A buffet dinner will be served at 6:45 p.m.

The dance, veddy formal, of course, will start at 10 p.m. and end at 2. If anyone has any energy left, State Line Mike has promised to stay open after his usual closing time of 3 a.m.

Sunday, Never Say Die

Sunday there will be baseball games on Commons lawn and swimming at the Tubs where the Octet will sing.

Cost—Be Brave, Read On

Tickets for the whole weekend, no extra charge for anything, can be purchased for \$8. . . . and if your wallet has a tired look about it, you can persuade your date that he can show his appreciation for being the Chosen One this weekend by paying for his own room.



Notice

Is anyone driving to California this summer who has room for a passenger? Alec Rubin

Mademoiselle's CollegeForum On Freedom and Security

(Continued from page 1)

off as the University of Texas, Washington, Montana, California and Colorado, from such diverse educational backgrounds as Sarah Lawrence, Middlebury, Bryn Marw and Columbia.

Christian Gauss, Dean Emeritus of Princeton University started the morning off by stating the problem we were to consider as one fundamentally human, which went back to questions of morality. Immediately the question arises as to how one can feel "secure" if you do not have freedom. That is if you do not have the protected liberty to be part of a minority which differs from the general opinion. American history is taught to infer that our form of government is unique and that we, Americans are just a shade better than others, or at least our form of government is. The classical tradition gave us two fundamental concepts: the *cosmos* which infers that the world is governed by laws which can be ascertained by human reason (even though we do not know them all they nevertheless exist) and secondly the concept of *cosmopolis* which holds that we all live in one world or more definitely in one city. From these two fundamental ideas evolve the concept of natural rights and essential freedoms. All nations have a common basis in law and respect for the human being. Even the fundamental tenets of democracy imply certain universal truths. For example Dr. Gauss cited our Declaration of Independence "When in the course of human events," which implies that these things are true anywhere, anytime.

He further emphasized the relationship between land and security or status. Land has always been the criteria for position and security. The most important fact in the discovery of America he pointed out, was that it offered a new ratio of man to land, and that land which was unclaimed. Although indicating quite clearly that moral security depends upon social security and material status it was emphasized that we must seek new basis for security.

Following each speaker there was a discussion period during which the students would question the speaker. This part of the forum often proved the most stimulating. Robert Cushman, professor of Government at Cornell University defined the legal aspect of freedom as formulated in the Bill of Rights, the first ten amendments to the United States constitution. Freedom of religion, of speech, assembly and the press safeguards the rights of minorities to differ from majority, since real democracy depends upon freedom of thought. The right of the use of executive and military power is limited in order to prevent powerful minorities to utilize excess initiative. The last two rights are those which protect people accused of crimes and also the property rights of individuals. This latter point was especially significant in view of what Dr. Gauss has previously discussed. Although these rights have been formulated in writing it still remains for the power of judicial review to define the scope of these rights. In many cases the Constitution is what the judges say it is.

An interesting discussion took place between Dexter Keezer, former president of Reed College and now Director of the Department of Economics at McGraw-Hill, and James P. Warburg, banker and economist. Mr. Keezer argued for freedom of opportunity which Mr. Warburg distinguished from freedom of equal opportunity. Dexter Keezer emphasized the beneficial aspects of competitive business, claiming that universal human equality was offensive, that the businessman does a prodigious job of bringing together workers and materials in the most efficient way possible, of the whole. This was answered effectively by Mr. Warburg who pointed out that the frame-

work in which a businessman operates for profit tends to make him anti-social since in social terms, in order to make a profit you must pay labor as little as possible and charge the consumer as much as possible. If at any time there existed in actuality a free market which permitted competition, it has not existed since the end of 19th century materialistic thought. Mr. Warburg contested this form of capitalism with the concept of a welfare state which, while permitting free enterprise and encouraging equal opportunity aimed at the social aspects of business as well as profit-making motives.

The luncheon address, made by Harold Taylor of Sarah Lawrence was one of the most stimulating ones given during the course of the forum. Dr. Taylor's experience as a philosopher and college president qualified him to make a very interesting analysis of student participation in government and political life. On the whole Dr. Taylor encouraged as much freedom of thought and individual responsibility as possible, feeling much of the basis of freedom lay in building up students with ability for mature discretion to make decisions.

Although the entire day was extremely rewarding I felt these speeches to be the highlights of the forum. In the afternoon we heard William Shirer and Walter Gelhorn, professor of law and political science at Columbia University, speak respectively on "The Middle Way—The Experience of Other Nations" and "The Democratic Process of Change."

The afternoon was concluded by student reports from Gladys Chang, President of Student Government at Sarah Lawrence, June Louin from the University of Southern California and Helen Jean Rogers, Secretary of NSA. There was considerable student discussion following the speeches of the afternoon. One of the most gratifying and at times thrilling experiences of the day was the intense interest expressed by the students on all of the topics discussed. They showed wide information and thought in all their questions and indicated that from whatever school or background they came from, each one in their own way, was attempting to formulate constructive attitudes on this important issue. The entire forum was planned by Miss Nancy Garoutte, College Board Editor of Mademoiselle, assisted by the staff of the magazine. For Ellen St. Sure and I, who were fortunate enough to attend this forum, the afternoon was more than rewarding.

Sondra Parkoff

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Dear Editor,

I should like to take this opportunity to inquire what has happened to the Public Relations Department? I am aware that some sort of student-faculty-administrative committee exists on campus but I must admit that I have heard nothing since the beginning of the term regarding their activities. I realize that this department should be performing a very valuable function. Aside from a recent newspaper article posted in the hall of Commons I am unaware of the activities of the Alumnae as well as what measures are being taken to publicize Bennington in a favorable light.

I believe it to be of the utmost necessity that the community be kept informed as to the activities of the Public Relations Department. To my knowledge there has been no attempt to draw upon student suggestions for publicity and we are completely in the dark as to what is being done. I would appreciate it very much if the Beacon could obtain information on this matter, or perhaps run a column by the Alumnae secretary and the Public Relations department combined concerning what is being done outside the campus to (1) raise funds and (2) publicize the name and purpose of Bennington College. I believe that our campus and student body is sufficiently attractive and interesting to attract the attention of at least one of the numerous popular magazine. Smith, Sarah Lawrence, Barnard, etc. seem to be doing quite well in this respect. What is wrong with our Pub. Rel. Dept. that some other college always "gets there first?" I am also confident that if the assistance of the students and community were called upon we might be more than willing to contribute time and effort towards either raising money by means of a production, fair or some similar enterprise as well as ideas which might be a value to the Public Relations Dept.

I would be very grateful if someone would enlighten me as to what this department has accomplished in view of the seriousness of both our financial and public relations situation.

Sincerely,
Sondra Parkoff

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Eulogy to D. F.

Danny Fager-o-Fager-o Figaro, born joyfully boyfully

at the hub of the universe Brooklyn and lived there eighteen, bowling green years hi ho!

He loved and loved the honking horns and the smell of steaks in passageways and all

But Danny had a cousin, cousin At the hub of the universe Bennington Who, true-blue, owned the hub of all pubs

The State Line-o "Fine-o" said Dan, "I'll get what I can," and got the gas station next to his cousin's State Line

all was divine until 'Fager' was drawn out of a goldfish bowl in 1942

"What fun, a gun," said Dan and went bom-boom, Bloom-blam to war.

Returning Discerning a new station de gasse at the bottom of college hill

Dan bought it and filled autos with petrol swooshly and in 1947

(Dan still loved the smell of steaks in passageways)

Opened another filling station aha aha Hamburg Hell-o hello hello With Royal Scott

who like as not Is of the famous Scott Tissue Issue. . . O Danny Boy and Royal Roy will some-day be

Propriety Of a bigger more beautiful tootafruitiful damage I know oho and so

They will Our Dan loves the Bennington girls drapely and

Shapely, he feeds them with glee Also their dates of whom he says most look as

though their heads came out of a jar-jar-jar from Har-Har-Harvard

Well-behaved Undepraved water-waved He calls the girls yooohoo

But the lads from Hanover Poor dears, poor beers, pour beers

Our Dan is leer and well might be playing the jazz Those boys all prepped at Alcatraz. . .

Danny Fager-o Fager-o sings sometimes wada wada

at The Line bung bung His favorite song Go Tell Aunt Rhody

But a song is a song is a song alas! And poker is poker

and that is no joker What an ace is our Dan at the cards He hints in hintish way

There is a poker club around who's members play A truly academic game oho.

And in all in all Danny is a Danny And we and all are gladly glad he

bought the Danny's and Hello Where he did did did-o.

did-o.

If you haven't been down to see us this spring — better call for an appointment *right now!*

Photography
by **LLOYD**

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Photo by Pat Hale

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Foreign Student Drive Successful

(Continued from page 1)

stitute informing them that a full room, board, and tuition scholarship to Bennington would be available to the student chosen by the HELP Committee, and the Institute's reply of May 4 indicated that this student had not yet accepted an appointment at any other college and that she would be notified immediately of Bennington's offer. They also stated that under the terms of the contract signed between the Institute and the department of the Army, this student will be provided with her travel from Germany to the United States and return, and from New York to Bennington and return, and that she will also be given "a small monthly stipend to meet her incidental expenses during the entire period of her stay in this country, and some additional funds to cover the periods when the college is closed. There will also be funds to cover a reasonable amount of clothing, books, and Institute group health insurance fee."

Thus the Army will provide this student with an allowance during her stay here, and the \$958.31 which the Community has contributed for her will more than cover the minimum costs of her room and board. It will therefore be possible to give her a single room the cost of which plus board is \$900, and the remaining \$58.31 will start a scholarship fund for another foreign student next year.

As soon as the College receives formal notification from the Institute that the student selected for this year will come to Bennington, a full description of her will appear in the Beacon.

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Music in Review

Dessoiff Choirs, Under Boepple, Offer Baroque Melodies

The Dessoiff Choirs, under Paul Boepple, presented a program of baroque music, ranging from Palestrina to Bach, last night at Town Hall. All of the offerings on the carefully chosen schedule were masterpieces of choral writing and the chorus reached new heights in its delivery of them.

The works sung were for mixed voices, a cappella, and given in chronological order. They comprised Palestrina's motet, "Assumpta Est Maria," and the first and second Lamentations of the Third Day from Lassus' "Lamentations of the Prophet Jeremiah," the motets "Ad Dominum Cum Tribularer" by Hans Leo Hassler, "Mirabile Mysterium" by Jacob Handl and "Die mit Traenen saeet" by Schein, Purcell's anthem, "Lord, How Long Wilt Thou Be Angry" and Bach's motet, "Der Geist hilft unsrer Schwachheit auf."

The scholarly Mr. Boepple's profound musicianship was reflected in the readings of these splendid compositions, which were admirably differentiated and unfailingly effective. Nothing could have been more striking than the contrast achieved between the exultant music of the Palestrina contribution and the solemn excerpts from Lassus' "Lamentations," at the start of the evening. In the Lassus, furthermore, the soft singing in the verses was made double impressive by the powerfully resonant proclamation of the fascinating setting of the Hebrew letters preceding each of them.

On the same exalted plane were the interpretations of Hassler's "Ad Dominum Cum Tribularer," with its vigorous, rich sonorities, and Jacob Handl's exquisite "Mirabile Mysterium," in which the ethereal opening section and the two great crescendos were expertly negotiated. The Purcell anthem and the superb "Die mit Traenen saeet" of Schein proved as capably set forth.

In the later composition, with its remarkably graphic and sensitive setting of the words of the text, taken from the Psalm, 126, the fugal opening, the grace of the music in the "und kommen mit Freuden" section, and the remarkable rhythmic changes and alterations of mood abounding in the composition, worked with most telling effect.

Never before has this reviewer heard the Dessoiff Choirs sing with such true distinction and unflaggingly maintain so exalted a level of tone color, dynamic control, fidelity to pitch and finely adjusted balance of sound. Surely, Mr. Boepple and the choristers deserved the highest praise for providing music lovers the privilege of hearing such an extraordinarily worth-while a program so nobly presented.

(This review of Mr. Boepple's Town Hall concert was published in the May 12 N. Y. Times, but was not printed in the earlier editions received at Bennington.)

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