

THE BEACON

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Scott Buchanan Speaks on "The Revival of Politics"

Speaking for the Wallace Group in the Student Lounge after a dinner on May 21, Dr. Scott Buchanan, former professor at St. John's College, Annapolis and author of "Poetry and Mathematics", said that he had entitled his talk "The Revival of Politics" because it is through the Third Party that controversy has been reinstated, this being the first step in curing sick politics.

Politics Sick

Dr. Buchanan expressed the inadvisability of attempting to reinstate the New Deal. First, because ghosts do not make good leaders; Secondly, because problems today, in which sick politics take root, indicate that they may not be solved in a short time. Power has replaced reason and we are suffering from a bi-partisan coalition led by power people who have gone so far as to re-define our instruments of political action. Consequently we view our own individual political powers in a new light. Votes are not considered as personal choices any more but as pressure to get things done. The reason for sick politics is that the dominant and creative group, who made us what we are, failed to meet problems we've put to ourselves for 200 years concerning industry, democracy and the political state.

Internal Proletariat

The outcome of the present situation
(Continued on page 5)

Art Party to be Held June 4 Costumes and Beer

All members of the community have been invited to the art department party, Friday evening, June 4.

Postponed from last term, the party will be given in the Carriage Barn. However, only those in costume will be admitted. Beer, cold cuts and other tasty refreshments will be included in the \$1 entrance fee per person. Prizes will be awarded for the best costume.

Elizabeth Cresswell and Ruth Livingston are planning the event, and have arranged for a gala evening. They are anxious to hear of any potential talent for entertainment.

(See if you can persuade your worst enemy to come as a "non-objective"!)

Williams Holds Conference on American Politics

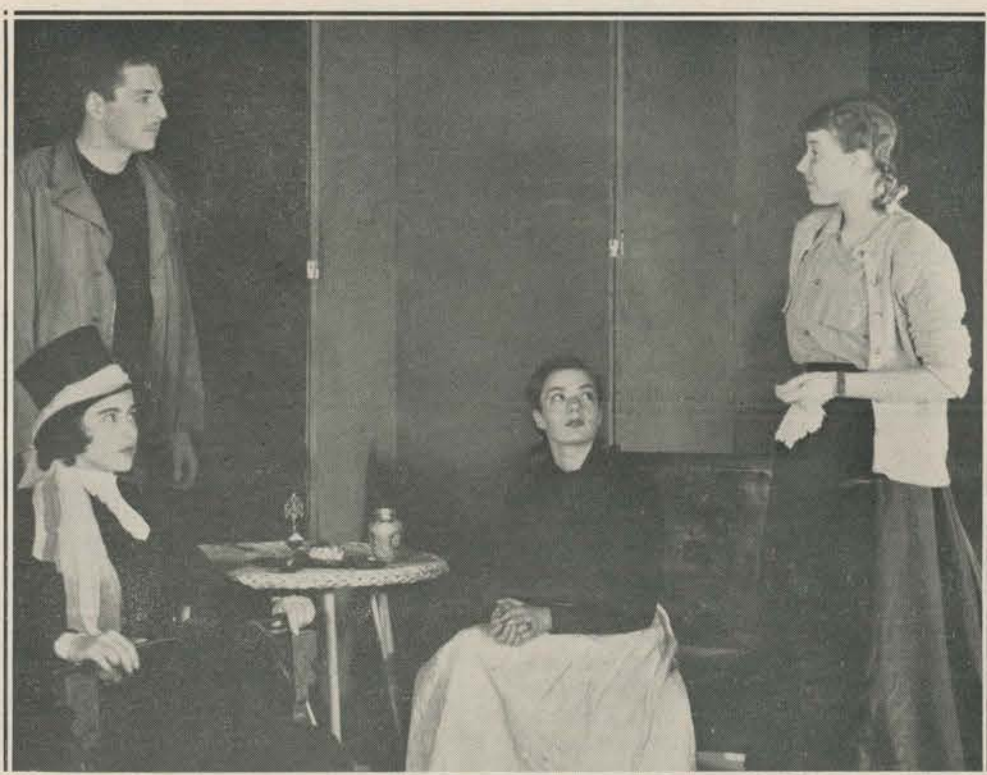
"The Challenge to American Politics: 1948 and Beyond" was the focus for Williams College's sixth annual Spring Conference held at Williamstown on May 14, 15 and 16. Residents of Williamstown, Bennington and Williams faculty members and students, and delegates from a number of eastern colleges attended the conference which was held at the Adams Memorial Theatre in Williamstown.

Mr. Rhett Austell, Chairman of the Williams student committee which helped plan the conference, delivered a welcoming address at the opening session on Friday evening, May 14. Dean Robert R. R. Brooks of Williams and Mr. Frank Abrams, Chairman of the Board of the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey and a director of the Ethyl Corporation, gave the opening addresses of the conference. They discussed economic problems of the contemporary world and their relation to political institutions and ideas which might implement their solution.

Three Speakers on First Panel

On Saturday afternoon the first panel discussion of the conference presented the question of "economic challenge at home and abroad and their relevance to political action." The meeting was conducted by Professor Emile Depres of Williams. Mr. Elmo Roper, the well-known Public Opinion research analyst, focused in his talk on the economic challenge as exhibited in problems of maintaining and extending prosperity, the economics of abundance, and the question of profits. Mr. Abrams spoke about the Standard Oil Company and the relationship of business and government. Mr. J. Kenneth Galbraith, of the Board of Editors of "Fortune" Magazine also discussed the relation of business to government as well as labor's relation to business. He mentioned unemployment as one of the main concerns shared by business and government, and felt that the United States Social Security program should be expanded as a stop-gap to unemployment.

Mr. Galbraith also suggested that
(Continued on page 4)



A scene from Richard Baldrige's adaptation of
"The Spoils of Paynton"

Student Committee Formed

At a recent meeting, John Noble, Director of Public Relations for the College, formed a student branch of his office. The new board will write press releases about current Bennington events for large and small newspapers throughout the country. The first assignment was a series of releases about work accomplished by individual students during the non-resident term.

The new committee, headed by Helen Frankenthaler, includes: Barbara Cart, Carolyn Kahn, Ann Irwin, Jonne Hutton, Sonya Rudikoff, Deane Worth, Nancy Andrews, Elizabeth Sherwin, Cynthia Lee, and Ellen Denson.

Hyman Honored at Tea

The Store Board gave a tea for Stanley Hyman in Commons on May 21, to celebrate the publication of his book, "The Armed Vision: A Study in Methods of Literary Criticism." Mr. Hyman autographed each purchase of his book.

Store Board Urges Artists to Exhibit

Students, don't hide your talent in a dusky corner of your closet. Don't be shy. Impress your friends and acquaintances. Polish up your ceramics and take your mobile constructions off the ceiling. Scrape the dust and baby oil off your paintings and drag out those scintillating hand-knit argyle socks you slaved over in class. Unbend those black and white gems in photography. Stagger up with that stone example of significant form. This is your big chance to show your "artistic nature" . . . or earn enough money to pay a few outstanding bills.

Tuesday, June 1, is the date of a most dynamic and colossal Exhibit and Sale of Students' Arts and Crafts. It is being sponsored by the Cooperative Store and will be held in the Student Lounge. Students wishing to enter articles either for display or for sale are asked to bring their contributions to the Student Lounge Monday night, May 30, between 7:00 and 10:30. With each article should be included a label containing the name of the contributing student, and the price of the article, if it is for sale.

It isn't really hard. Everything has been arranged: a charming exhibit room whose subtle background will bring out the best in your art pieces; appreciative and competent attendants who will see that no one mangles your work; the best in advertising. Of course, if you are wholly attached to any of your creations, you may bring them for display only.

Remember, in deciding on the price, that 10% of it goes to the store. Further information may be obtained from Penny Hartshorne, Sue Bangs, Cynthia Moller, Jonne Hutton, Martha Holt, Joanne Brandenburger, Miss Hopkins, Mr. Belitt, or Mary Walsh.

Linda Borden Elected to Editorial Board

At a Beacon meeting on Wednesday, May 19, Linda Borden was elected to the editorial board of the newspaper. She will replace Florence Sullivan.

Social Science - Political Economy Seminars Planned

Two kinds of seminars within the Social Studies field are being planned for the present term. The committee called upon to organize the Social Studies program is composed of two faculty members and two student E.P.C. representatives of the Political Economy and Social Science fields. They are Mr. Brockway and Patton Galloway; Mrs. DeGray and Sally Lieberman, respectively.

Future Combined Seminars

Three meetings planned by the committee will be concerned with problems peculiar to the combined social science and political economy plan. Mr. Smith, who is teaching the principles of social case work, will speak on May 25th. Also in the near future, Dr. Lindeman, a social science philosopher, will speak in the third seminar in this group. The topic to be discussed by Dr. Lindeman, and the specific date of the seminar, has not yet been ascertained.

Plans for speakers at the fourth seminar are also uncertain. Possibly, one or two students will discuss their senior thesis. Frances Davis and Elinor Gottlieb, psychology majors, are potential lecturers.

Social Science Seminars

Seminars which will emphasize Social Science, are being planned by E.P.C. member Sally Liberman. On Tuesday evening, May 11th, Mr. W. Mayo from the Kurn-Hattin Homes in Westminster, Vt., spoke on that institution for delinquent children. Mr. Mayo presented a clear view of the children's problems; their family backgrounds and daily routine. He also showed colored pictures of life within the Home.

Among other specialized Social Science seminars, there will be a discussion of remedial reading. It has been suggested that Mrs. Mary Lanigan, from North Bennington, be the speaker for this seminar.

Arrangements are being made for a seminar on Mental Hygiene. If plans for this seminar are made definite, D. Elizabeth Kundart from the State Mental Hygiene Clinic will be asked to speak on counseling services in Vermont, and her specific duties. It is hoped that Dr. Fromm will be another speaker for a final seminar in the specialized Social Science program, sometime in June.

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Editorial

With Drama Workshop being given tomorrow, it occurred to us that the music department is the only performing art that does not present a formal production to the college. Although there are weekly seminars, they are quite informal and generally of interest only to people in the field. The orchestra gives a concert, but this does not allow soloists and chamber groups to perform. We think that a recital each semester would not only benefit the students by giving them a chance to perform before a varied audience, but would be of great interest to the people outside the field who otherwise have no contact with the work of the music students. Moreover, this would give them a goal to work toward. We believe that the concert should not apply solely to senior projects, but as in dance and drama, it should incorporate the work of the less advanced students.

While the criticism may be made that the music students are not finished performers, we do not expect semi-professional work of them any more than we do of the dance and drama students. Perhaps the reason that no plans have been worked out is that the music department feels there is no demand from the community. If you would be interested in such a program, write to the BEACON, or speak to Marcia Ireland, music E.P.C. representative.

"To Cut or Not to Cut"

(With All Apologies to Shakespeare's Hamlet)

To cut, or not to cut: that is the question:
Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to resist

The flings and larks of Williams week ends,

Or to take arms against a sea of subjects,

And by opposing flunk them? To stay: to pass;

No more; and by a stay to say we end

The temptation, and the thousand cocktail parties

That hangover is heir to, 'tis a pressing problem

Would it could be solved. To stay, to pass;

To pass: perchance to graduate; ay there's the rub;

For in that thrill of glory what dreams may come

Of romance and of milk punch,
That makes us pause. Still there's respect

That makes well of our work and strife; Yet who would bear the quips and

scorns of Profs,
The Student's wrong, the ill-reputes first folly!

The pangs of missed weekend and shady hey-day,

The slaving over papers for the terms. It's play for work, Professors do

mistake.
Would I could have, and eat my cake! What's one small cut? Who would my

person miss?
I want a weekend and a stolen kiss! Still there's the dread that someone,

while I'm gone,
My undiscovered work, will note with scorn.

Could I then return? Puzzles the will, And makes me rather bear the class I

have
Then fly to others that would speak of love.

Thus conscience does make cowards of us all

And thus the native thing I did conspire,

Is blotted out with one small flame of righteous fire,

And enterprises of great pith and moment

With this regard their currents turn awry,

To find a strength through sex upon another day.

C. de Vries

c/o R. S. V. P.

Letter Box

Dear Cynthia:

At the last meeting of the Board of Trustees in Bennington, we were told of the very generous action of the Beacon staff and board in contributing your profit of five hundred dollars to the scholarship fund. The Board asked me to write and tell you how much we appreciate the action of the Beacon Board and to convey to you our very hearty thanks. In the present difficult financial situation, your donation is the greatest possible help.

I think it is wonderful of you girls to make this contribution. I also want to compliment you all on your efficient operation of the Beacon, which has made this contribution possible. I have personally read the Beacon with the greatest interest, and have found it a great help in knowing what is going on at the college. I want to continue my subscription to it.

With renewed thanks to you and the other members of your staff and board,

Very sincerely yours,

Elizabeth J. Franklin,

Chairman the Board of Trustees

(This letter was received from Felicia Warburg, Bennington '49, and was written on gold engraved Embassy stationery.)

Embassy of the United States of America

London, May 6, 1948

Dear Helen:

Snappy paper, n'est-ce pas? As for my impressions of London, I want you to know that the following is strictly ad-lib, off the cuff and what have you and food for thought for the 100 neediest cases chez Bennington. Just shoot me a copy when it gets into print.

When I first arrived in England I found to my amazement that everything looked so American. I don't know if I expected "this is English" painted on every bush, but the streets, the people and even the parks (which resembled Central Park en grosse) looked just like an American city. However, after a few days, I realized that my observations were completely superficial. Living with the Douglasses, enjoying evenings meeting the great personalities of our time, going to balls and leading a gay life tends to make me oblivious of outer conditions. The English are going through a time of great austerity with curtailment of any type of what we forget are luxuries: clothes, food, heat, gasoline. They are allowed 1 suit of clothes a year and although their shops display a wealth of goods, the British, with limited coupons, cannot obtain them. The houses are very cold, and there is no such thing as pleasure driving. Despite all this, the people are happy and put up a front that makes one forget all they endured and are going through.

Likewise the city shows little sign to a foreigner of the dreadful bombing. What was demolished has been so skillfully cleared away that in many places

Chorus Gives Concert in Boston

The Bennington College Chorus, conducted by Mr. Boepple, presented a program of French Medieval Music, May 7, at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. This concert had been given last term in New York City at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and had also been presented to the College after the New York concert.

The program, which was given under the auspices of the Bennington College Alumnae Association, included works of composers of the late Middle Ages and Early Renaissance period, all of which, according to reports, were performed with enthusiasm.

the holes look like ordinary excavations. I have been extremely lucky to be living with the ambassador and his family.

I have met Princess Margaret Rose and on May 13 will be formally introduced to the King and Queen at their Garden party in Buckingham Palace.

I have spent much time seeing the usual tourist spots in the city and find London beautiful because of its tradition and customs. What amazed me is the great feeling the English Public have for their King and Queen. But if meeting their daughter, who was simple yet charming, is any criterion, I have begun to feel in a small way their sentiments of honor and loyalty.

Well Helen—just returned from Paris on a two-day trip with Daddy which was divine. Dad gave me as a gift a beautiful Molyneux ice-blue thin faille evening dress and a cute French hat. Went to a naked floor show deal which was flabbergasting but boring. Saw the sights and am back again. Plans are now that I will probably spend the summer here.

Love,
Felicia

On the Bias

by M. S.

Why is it that a crisis should bring on unity when nothing else can? We have seen this happen in countries as well as between people—that peculiar thing which can transform your worst enemy into your best friend simply because neither one of you has done that Lit assignment or that term paper. Should it always be necessary to have such a test of our own strength by things outside ourselves? Is it not possible to live by our own highest standards without a test all the time? Why can countries find allies in war and not in peace?

Now, to carry this all one step further, there is an interesting thing happening in college. The financial situation, which we have been told to regard as a crisis, has had various results. Some have lived up to it as a test—others have shown little or no interest in it, and still others are willing to help if they don't have to work too hard or furnish any ideas themselves. Some have even taken it upon themselves to start rumors of a cancerous nature against the administration. Thus we can see indeed that a crisis is a fairly accurate test of human nature, even though I think ideally it should not be so. I for one would like to see a community meeting held fairly soon in which some straight talking is done and a few things cleared from the air.

Otherwise the air is very nice, and, when the sun is out, much too nice for the intellectual pursuits which must be done indoors. One is inspired to much greater heights when getting a tan; the same principle as singing in a shower, I guess. The physical and spiritual are, even so pedestrianly, an inseparable pair.

The other day Mr. Boepple told me about a girl who had written a paper comparing the music of Bach and Beethoven. Toward the end of the paper she proudly announced her conclusion: Bach was the more democratic of the two because—he wrote for equal voices.

The Beacon welcomes contributions from members of the community. The editors reserve the right to edit all manuscripts accepted.

WHICH TWIN IS DOING HER THESIS?



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The Way to a Counsellor's Heart is Through His Stomach

Staring at the corn and cheese pudding sitting untouched in the middle of the table, we wondered if the rumors we'd heard were true. Did the faculty really dine on hors d'oeuvres and crepes suzette, and what was that about champagne at dinner last Tuesday? If the faculty eats so well, we mused, they must be fabulous gourmets; so why not ask them to give us the inside dope on their favorite dishes. Casting a scornful look at the one girl who was actually eating the lunch, we moved barnward to hunt the prey in their lair.

Burkhardt

We rode into Mr. Burkhardt's office on a huge sigh which he emitted from behind an importantly cluttered desk. Getting down to business at once (we felt it would have been sacrilegious to horse around), we discovered that our president has a weakness for porterhouse steak—very rare—and hash-brown potatoes. "How cooked?" we asked. Why, what did we think? Broiled of course! We weren't of the frying pan school, were we? We admitted we were and, feeling like a perfect damned fool, rode out on a sigh of our own.

Marshall

We met a lot of people on the way to a meeting with the president, and impolite as usual, we lay down before the doorway and asked our question. In reply to us, Miss Marshall said that she was in the middle of papers and didn't have time to think about food. Since one of the papers was ours, we didn't push the matter much further—except that we did wring forth the fact that for re-vitalization, Miss Marshall drinks black coffee.

Hanks

As Mr. Hanks stopped to scratch his head before entering the president's office, we managed to get a statement to the effect that he liked beefsteak cooked with a particular sauce, about as well as anything.

Belitt

Of course, we would catch Mr. Belitt in a counselling period. And of course, he would have to say that he couldn't cook his favorite dish and that he just didn't realize the utterly climactic nature of our question! Nevertheless, we got it! Shrimps creole—and that means dry rice and good large prawns, covered with very hot sauce.

Kunitz

Mr. Kunitz looked like a trapped mouse—I guess we were looking pretty intense by this time. But after he'd faced the corner, and gotten away from our somewhat glazed expression (we did have a mission you know) for a few minutes, he swung around and told us point blank that it was clam chowder, New England style, seasoned with herbs such as thyme, marjoram and bay leaves and accompanied with pork scraps.

Jackson

Mr. Jackson, looking more like Shostakovitch than ever, and in a counselling period to boot, warned us that he didn't really have anything colorful to say. He said that Hemingway said canned apricots were better than fresh ones, and we, who have also read THE SUN ALSO RISES, snorted back that he said the very same thing about peas. Gathering his wits together at our "so what?" expression, he peered down at us and whispered "Fried perch, the kind you catch in Muskegon Lake in Michigan. You don't eat anything but perch and bear—" "Bear!" we gasped, writing for all we were worth. "Beer", he retracted. "First clean the perch, then fry them in deep fat—then shake them in a box with crushed cornflakes, then fry another minute in deep fat—take 'em out and you know why people move to Michigan—why it's a completely self-sustaining diet." We didn't doubt him at all . . . having always placed faith in the old adage that "fish is brain food."

Interview with John Noble

"It's strange coming into a world of women," said John Noble, new public relations man at Bennington College. Mr. Noble swung his feet up onto his desk and leaned back in his chair.

"Was this your first feeling when you came to Bennington?" I asked.

"No," he said, "I was immediately struck by the beauty of the campus. And then when I met the girls I was amazed because they seem so much older than my idea of college girls. They have an unusual amount of poise."

I nodded.

"They're not school girls," he said.

Mr. Noble looked out the window. I took this opportunity to look over my notes.

Past Activities

Mr. Noble graduated from Columbia in 1933. Collapse of the family fortune necessitated his going to work for Hearns Dept. Store as a stock boy to make some money as quickly as possible. He soon rose to the position of assistant buyer in linens, but at this strategic point in his career, left the store to go to Washington. Here he became Art Editor for a secondary school newspaper. This didn't suit him either, so he left and started a travel bureau for European trips. He took thirteen school girls all over Europe and maintains this is why he is a bachelor today. After what must have been an eventful trip, Mr. Noble returned to America and began work as a photographer for McCree's Department Store. Some trouble developed with a woman who didn't like a picture he had taken of her, and Mr. Noble was on the road once more. It was then that he decided that he was not the man for a permanent job.

Around the World

He traveled in California for a while and then took a trip around the world. He wrote a series of articles for the Macy Chain of Papers which were presented in the form of an Inquiring Reporter and told what the man in the streets of India, Shanghai, Egypt and Italy was thinking.

Back in California after his round-the-world adventure, Mr. Noble took a series of jobs consisting of jerking sodas, digging graves and picking oranges in the Imperial Valley. He also wrote three plays which were produced at the Pasadena Playhouse. On the strength of the success of these plays, Mr. Noble got a contract from Warner Brothers writing scripts. He left this job after a year and a half and then edited the Beverly Hills Shopping Guide.

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Baldrige

We had peered in at Mr. Baldrige once, but he was conducting a rehearsal and it didn't look too promising to us, to say the least. Therefore we caught him just before supper. In answer to our question, we were informed that his favorite dish is marinated (domesticated, not wild) rabbit, fried and then casserole with thyme, sauterne and onions.

Feeley

Mr. Feeley thought we were kidding, but he must have changed his mind when we plunked ourselves down in his office, crossed our feet, and said, "We'll wait, and you can just think about it for awhile." No doubt getting a bit alarmed at us, he rallied together and told us that it was lamb chops with mushrooms stuffed with garlic, and parsley butter.

Schapiro

Mr. Schapiro knew his favorite dish right away. 'Tis, he informed us, smoked salmon with sour cream and onions. To prepare it, you saute the onions, add smoked salmon "dane pieces petites" (gee!), add sour cream—"zimmer" 10 minutes and then eat. When we asked for further comment, Mr. Schapiro looked past us, and eyes closed, sniffed delicately and mmmmmmmmed.

J. P.

Archie—The Popcorn King

Popcorn costs only five or ten cents a bag, and a shoe shine is two bits at the most, but both of them are good for the morale. You don't have to tell this to Archie King. He knows from experience. It must have been over thirty-five years ago that he went into the shoe shine business, and now he runs the popcorn machine you've all seen in town.

An Old Timer in Town

Archie has been looking after Bennington's wants for a long time. He moved here from Canada around 1896 when he was four years old. (His sister came along too, and now she and her



husband own the King Company cleaning establishment.) At first Archie worked as a bootblack, but soon moved up till he owned his own shop. Everyone admits that he always pursued his work faithfully. Two years ago, however, because of a major operation, he had to stop working so hard. It was then that he decided to sell his business, and stick to the popcorn machine.

"Popcorn for Sale"

Does Archie miss the old business? No, not at all. "That sort of work is all right for a young fellow, you know," he said, "but it gets to be too much after a while." Now he can sit peacefully in his red truck with all the necessary accoutrements for making good popcorn, and watch the rest of the world go by. He can be found almost every afternoon right in front of his old store.

Archie gets real joy out of his wagon. He exclaims, "This, young lady, was made to go anywhere." When he first got it, in the summer of 1926, it had gas lights and the popper ran by gasoline burners. Now it uses city gas piped under the sidewalk and into the truck. Although in the beginning he and his wife, Flora, had a lot of trouble

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Mendershausen Speaks on "Country Without Government"

Germany and United States foreign policy in that country was the subject of a lecture given by Horst Mendershausen on May 18.

He stated that Germany was once a great power and a threat to the world, and that now, although impotent, it is again a threat to the peace of Europe and the United States. At present Germany has neither legitimate government, nor common power, and therefore it is a country in a state of anarchy.

Present Conditions in Germany

Mr. Mendershausen gave a brief description of present conditions in Germany. Industry produces at one half of the pre-war level; the wage of the average worker is two packages of cigarettes; taxes are higher than wages; crops are at two-thirds the pre-war level; and it is almost impossible to find a place to live. When the German people were asked if fellow citizens could be trusted, seven percent of them said "yes," while ninety-three percent said "no."

This state of anarchy can be understood if certain events are kept in mind:

1. When the Hitler party committed suicide, it left the Germans in a state of chaos and confusion.

2. The overthrow of Hitler failed in 1944; the group that had attempted the coup was exterminated, so there is now less hope for leadership for a democratic, liberal party.

3. Germany was divided into zones by the peace treaties and the different heads of these zones cannot agree on an all-over policy.

4. Morgenthau's statement in 1944, that Germany should be reduced to a so-called nonentity, formed a basis for a bad start in that country.

The Partition of Germany

Mr. Mendershausen then went on to summarize Walter Lippman's two orbit theory, as it is expressed in his book, "U. S. War Aims." He described the partition of Germany, pointing out that the U.S.S.R. is in control of the central, most heavily industrial section of the country.

Germany was supposed to be governed by the four-power Council of Governments, designed to take the place of

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DRYSDALE'S

Williams Holds Conference On American Politics

(Continued from page 1)

the conception of "business" and "government" as dire enemies was fatuous and not conducive to the solution of any problems facing the two groups. Mr. Roper implied that government controls in the business area as well as similar welfare-minded activities on the parts of labor, private industry and agriculture could help to achieve the "good society". Mr. Galbraith partially supported this view in suggesting that government might be a better "performer" than private industry, for example in such matters as the development of resources and in housing.

Following the panel discussion Saturday afternoon a reception was held for speakers and delegates at the Williams Inn.

The American Political Machine

The meeting Saturday evening considered the capacity of American political machinery to evolve solutions to the economic problems. Professor Vincent B. Barnett of Williams conducted the meeting. Professor Barnett suggested a number of focii to the speakers, among them the oft-questioned adequacy of the two-party system in matters of policy-making. Mr. Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., author of "The Age of Jackson" and Associate Professor of History at Harvard, stressed the necessity of bi-partisan foreign policy in a mature government. Mr. Schlesinger deplored what he considered an American tendency to believe that a change in political machinery will solve all political problems. In the course of his talk he surveyed historical aspects of the two-party system, the make-up of the major political parties and the non-ideological basis on which each party functions.

Mr. Wendell Meade, Republican Congressman from the Seventh District of Kentucky, focused his talk primarily on the congressional machinery which he felt was adequate for handling political and economic problems. Mr. Meade also discussed the two-party system, and described congressional duties.

Paul Porter Discusses Third Parties

Mr. Paul Porter, formerly of the OPA and active in the Democratic Party and in Americans for Democratic Action, discussed the question of "third parties" in a two-party system. He mentioned several notable third parties, among them the LaFollette group which served an educational function in Wisconsin politics. Though the time allotted him was short, Mr. Porter managed to offer his opinions on the Wallace candidacy, the 80th Congress, which he considered "nineteenth-century Congress", the Mundt-Nixon bill which he felt was undemocratic, and the two-party framework within which, he felt, best results could be achieved in government.

Mr. John W. Hanes, banker, former Under-Secretary of the Treasury under Franklin Roosevelt, and member of the Hoover Committee on the Reorganization of the Executive Branch of the Government, discussed the effectiveness of the administration, problems of the budget and deficit spending and the complete nature of the executive.

The President and Cabinet

Mr. James Reston, Washington correspondent for the New York Times, and author of "Prelude to Victory" spoke on the office of the president and the relation of the President's cabinet to policy-making. Mr. Reston mentioned the transition in political and economic thinking as partially responsible for the fact that the cabinet does not function as it should and that diplomacy is "amateurish". Mr. Reston also considered the role of the press and public opinion in the determination of policy.

Influences on Public Opinion

Sunday morning's panel discussion considered the relation of government policy and public opinion, and the func-

Current Events Seminar Formed

The recently formed Current Events Seminar grew from an informal discussion last term among several faculty and student members: Mr. Brockway, Miss Marshall, Mary Walsh, Frances Davis, Sue Bangs, and Beth Ahn. They realized, as did almost everyone, that there was a definite need for some sort of seminar, in order that faculty and students could discuss topics of current interest. Despite the discussion in many of the regular classes and seminars there is not enough time in these to discuss the subjects which are not definitely connected with the course. A current events seminar fills this need, and any question can be brought up and discussed informally.

Discussions Formal

Consequently, at the beginning of this term, a meeting was called for all those interested in such a seminar. The first one, in conjunction with the EPC, was rather formal: Mr. Salvadori presented his views on the then-impending Italian elections. The next meeting was not too spontaneous, since the students did not yet realize that discussion would follow the varied line of interest.

Elections and Communism

However, at the following seminar, the question of the Italian elections arose again, promptly turned into a discussion of the social implications of Communism, and wound up with an attempt to pin down the elusive answer to the question, "What is Democracy?"

All future meetings, which are open to anyone interested, will consist of discussions of any current topics in which the members of the group are interested.

tion of agencies of communication in the education and stimulation of opinion. Professor David Truman of Williams conducted the meeting. Ralph Barton Perry, Professor of Philosophy at Harvard and author of "Puritanism and Democracy", mentioned the commercial motivation of the radio and newspapers as inimical to a high quality of public opinion. However, Professor Perry suggested that government control of the press, for example, would be dangerous since government "should not create the opinion from which it derives its authority." Mr. Louis Hacker, Associate Professor of History and Economics at Columbia, and author of "The Triumph of American Capitalism and the Shaping of American Tradition", did not agree completely with Professor Perry's condemnation of the press and suggested that other agencies such as the labor press were equally powerful in forming public opinion. Mr. Reston spoke of various problems in the transmission of news which made the development of intelligent public opinion a difficulty.

In the discussion which followed Mr. Hacker suggested that the concentration of newspaper ownership could be counteracted by the popularity of columnists frequently at variance with the owners of newspapers. All members on the panel discussed the effects of political leadership in public opinion.

Questions from the Audience

After the formal part of each panel written questions from the audience were discussed by the speakers and this procedure was responsible for stimulating much of the most interesting talk during the conference. The speakers' humor was also allowed free rein during this period: notable were Mr. Porter's suggestion that the laws of supply and demand were "archaic" to which Mr. Dupres of Williams replied that he guessed Williams' teaching was archaic! Mr. Schlesinger commented that "Stassen had accomplished the remarkable feat of making Dewey look like a liberal" and that the 80th Congress was "the best Congress money can buy."

S. Rudikoff

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Scott Buchanan Speaks on "The Revival of Politics"

(Continued from page 1)

tion is that we will get ground down to a homogenous mass, the outcome of which will be world government. The real problem is for us to decide whether it will be unification by force or by reason. We've been radiating destructively for the past 150 years and we may get a reverse radiation. Two things may happen: World government may be oppressive, if we allow ourselves to be the agents of military and business people or an internal proletariat (people in any civilization who find themselves not belonging to a civilization though they're in it) may arise, developing soul-saving spiritual powers in a quest for higher things than economic and politics.

Marx a Prophet

Marx was an internal proletariat. He was trying to discover what was wrong with the world, and what he said is that we must discover collective freedom. We've got to find out how we can do things together and be free. No one can really be politically concerned without trying to understand Marx, for his prophecy has come true. Our unsolved problem is the secret of cooperation, and although the Anglo-Saxons have achieved a remarkable understanding of their own freedom, they have done it for nobody else. This is obvious by our sad, shabby, terribly provincial attempt to force our ways and freedoms on the rest of the world.

Secret of Collective Freedom

The secret of collective freedom is law which has come from agreements arrived at openly and through which has come the elimination of 1) class, which is turning into a caste here and 2) war, which is turning the world into a howling mad house. What's this got to do with the third party? The only way we've ever revived politics is through a third party and although third parties have not always been successful in their own terms, they have exerted a profound political influence. A third party put Woodrow Wilson into the White House and if enough people get the point between now and November, Wallace will be our next president. As Thurman Arnold said, "It's not ten million Communists that are for Wallace today, but ten million people so fed up with the other parties that they can't stand it any longer."

Third Party Planks

The following undeclared planks are the basis for third party policy:

- 1) A return to the tradition of civil liberties which means eliminating the Mundt and Taft Hartley bills, the loyalty order, etc.
- 2) A straightening out of our fundamental laws, i. e. corporation laws, which permit business trusts to use the same laws as charity trusts.

At present we have isles of socialism in a sea of private enterprise as indicated by TVA and the Atomic Energy Commission. It is time for the government to take over corporations exceeding \$50,000,000 or more and manage them through a federal corporation, the charter of which would have a public welfare clause. This clause would guarantee its being run for the good of the public. The advisors to the federal corporation would be labor, management and government.

- 3) In regard to our foreign policy—steering our course on the assumption that World Government is inevitable.

Wallace—Mystic and Scientist

In order to understand Wallace, you must see his two sides. For Wallace is a religious man and a scientist. Wallace is a mystic because he is endlessly curious about fundamental matters. You might call him a symbol of the internal proletariat—the people who make spiritual discoveries.

Wallace is a scientist, and this is not a contradiction. The development of hybrid corn has been his life work and he is forever interested in discovering new ways to make better things grow. Wallace and the government he represents appeal to very human things, particularly the sense of injustice and out of this new articulation, although it may come very late, will come something which will move mountains. The third party represents a small movement which will go on for a generation and during this time we will discover what one world implies for our daily life. And even if we don't succeed, we will at least have tried—for we will have been the only persons really trying. Third party people mean business—they realize the heart of this thing is serious. Kant, perhaps saw it when he said: "This is the common man—he is the peasant, the man on the street—who because of his lack of learning can make a moral judgment." Wallace insists on moral judgment. Nothing is more important than this.

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Interview with John Noble

(Continued from page 3)

Soon after this he returned East and enlisted in the 7th Regiment in New York. In 1941 he left for Camp Stuart, Ga. Mr. Noble was stationed in 42 of the 48 states and held every rank from private to captain. He was in on the Philippine invasion and was wounded at Mindanao. In May, 1946, he was discharged from the service. During the war Mr. Noble was also public relations officer at Tululake, California, a Japanese segregation center. After he had left the army, he became Associate Director of the Museum of Natural History in New York City. He kept this job for two years, and then in February of 1948 he came to Bennington.

"What do you think is the most valuable experience you've had?" I asked Mr. Noble, somewhat awed by his varied career.

He thought for a moment.

"Working in the Imperial Valley, picking oranges," he said slowly. "I really felt a part of the people there. And being a public relations man is really the consummation of my career."

"How do you mean," I asked.

"Well, the most important lesson of my varied life is that it taught me how to get on with people."

"And how do you think you'll get on at Bennington?"

"Very well," he said promptly. "The alumnae, the trustees and the students all seem genuinely concerned about the financial position of the college, and I know we can all work together and get Bennington out of the hole."

Mr. Noble went on to say that he plans "to create good public relations for the college through a medium of dignified publicity concerning its aims and projects." He also hopes "to organize parents, alumnae, friends and former donors to the college into an organization whose efforts will be devoted to alleviating financial needs."

"I like the liberal attitude here," said Mr. Noble, swinging his feet down to the floor and standing up. "Yes, I like everything about Bennington."

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Photography on Exhibition in Commons

A showing of photographs by Alfred Stieglitz and Edward Weston went on exhibition on the third floor of Commons, May 19, and can be seen until June 2. It contains some of the most significant work of two of the foremost photographers of our times.

Alfred Stieglitz

The fact that most people now accept photography as an additional means of expression is due for the most part to the work of Alfred Stieglitz. In the latter part of the nineteenth century, photography had a bad name, as most photographers were using it as a short cut to an accepted medium, painting. As Paul Strand once wrote in an article entitled "Alfred Stieglitz and a Machine"—"They did not realize that a new unique instrument had been born of science and placed in their hands; an instrument as sensitive and as difficult to master as any plastic material, but requiring a complete perception of its inherent means and of its own unique approach, before any profound registration was possible." These photographs (except for the "Steerage," taken in 1906) were all taken prior to 1897, before Stieglitz had founded the photo Succession and before he had begun to help artists in all fields of creative expression. He was responsible for introducing Picasso and Braque as well as many American artists, to the American public.

Edward Weston

Unlike Stieglitz, Weston has fought for the sincere treatment of photography mainly through his own work. Both believed that photographers must get over their inferiority complex towards painting and realize the potentialities of their own medium. Weston wrote in 1933 in a short pamphlet on photography "that photographs must justify their existence by achieving a correlation between meaning and expression which is free from all irrelevant connotation, all suggestions of other forms of expression." He also says that the photographers' instruments and sensitive materials must become as much a part of him as a leg or an arm, for it is these things that he functions with and through.

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Archie — The Popcorn King

(Continued from page 3)

keeping the machine going, now they both agree that it's a toy to run.

Customers: Over and Under Five

It seems that the machine and its wares have a great fascination for all kinds of people who are all kinds of ages. The first day that Archie ran it, he parked on the circus grounds at Bennington (those were the days when it could go anywhere), and he had more customers than corn. Today he has a set of regulars as well as casual, but hungry passers-by. His shop, too, used to be a hang-out for Bennington's younger generation. He can well remember the young soldiers in both wars who used to come straight to his shop to find their friends, and sometimes even made a special trip there before they went back home.

Archie gets a special kick out of the zealous mothers who try to make their children buy their own corn. One particularly demanding mother with a son under five, would not let him have the corn until he could first figure out the correct change. (P. S., naturally, she was the one who gave in!)

Archie's Favorite Entertainments

"People certainly are curious about the machine," Archie confided. He is often amused by the reactions of late movie-goers, who see it all lit up at eleven o'clock at night. They come and buy corn; he answers their questions; and sometimes they tell him about the movie. That is his favorite form of entertainment. He likes historical pictures and war pictures, but he also enjoys a good gangster movie. Come to think of it, though, perhaps the movies aren't Archie's favorite form of entertainment. There is always the ideal dinner of raw clams, good steak, French fried potatoes and apple pie, a la mode, of course. Then, too, there is the small radio that sits in one corner of the machine. Archie listens to Amos and Andy, Fibber McGee and Molly, Ellery Queen, and some of the quizz shows, "because they teach you a lot."

Travel Ambitions

It is fair to say that Archie's secret ambition is to travel. Trains come first on his list, perhaps because of the first exciting ride from Canada to Bennington. As for accommodations, he will take the chair cars any day.

He remembers his first plane ride too, shortly after the first World War, when a local pilot was charging \$15 for a ride that lasted only five short minutes. Archie became a good friend of the man, and one day he got a ride all the way to Worcester, Massachusetts. It was free, too.

When he was little, Archie used to wonder what it would be like to wake up in a boat so far out in the water that he couldn't see land. Years later, when he and his wife were travelling from Cleveland to Buffalo, via Lake Erie, he remembered to get up at about five a. m. to fulfill his childhood longing.

Archie knows pretty well by now how to please people and, more important, how to please himself. Sooner or later, his friends come up to his window to see him; so he can just sit back and relax.

N. Dorbritz

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Mendershausen Speaks on "Country Without Government"

(Continued from page 3)

the German Central Government. Disagreements between the powers, which hindered its functioning, made military government necessary for efficient organization. The policy of the Military Government was to keep aloof and stern, leaving full executive, legislative and judicial powers to the council, except for those which affected the policy of the Military Government. This plan did not work, one fault being that it provided for no economic improvements in Germany.

The Economic Situation

Since economic and political zones were separated, economics being under control while politics were left in a laissez-faire state, a move was made to unify Germany so that a free flow of goods could take place and result in import and export.

Mr. Mendershausen's Recommendations

Mr. Mendershausen stated that Germany needs a federation leading to a strong central government, and that we should encourage the formation of a German union, as well as do the following:

1. Abolish military government.
2. Establish an American foreign policy to bring Germany into the Atlantic Zone.
3. Insure assurance of a peaceful Germany through trusteeship under the Atlantic Community, as well as international control of the Ruhr.

Mr. Mendershausen ended by saying that, although we have failed to take Germany into the Atlantic Community, we must, nevertheless, try to spread the Western idea of democracy so that it will become the basis for future German action.

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