The Bennington Weekly

Published by the Students of Bennington College

Vol. 1-No. 1

Friday, September 15, 1950

10 Cents

Having come to Bennington (after two years at Vassar), the first difference I noticed was the campus. There is no red brick and there seems to be more sky. Then I noticed that the doors have locks which can be unlocked from the outside. These are small things, but important differences since the campus becomes a place to live instead of an institution. Goings and comings through doors are regulated mainly by our activities and interests rather than by bells or rules. It seems to be assumed that we're here because we're interested in the kind of life offered—and the general enthusiasm on campus proves that this life is desirable to the students. At Bennington, the students' behavior is guided by their willingness to make new experiences for themselves. What the students learn depends upon themselves and their ability to create and produce according to their own standards.

At a college with a more traditional academic approach, like Vassar, it is more difficult for the student to feel that she is shaping the nature of her work. Certain standards have been rigidly fixed and although she can meet these standards in her own way, there is less room for expansion. A marking system tells her where she stands in relation to others. but not in relation to her own potentialities. The report system at Bennington can tell the student much more about herself

(Continued on Page 4)

Students May Spend NRT In Europe

Students who would like to spend their non-resident term in Europe now have a chance to do it. Under the college auspices the Experiment in International Living is willing to set up a group to go abroad and on Tuesday, September 19, at 5:00, in Barn 1 Experiment Representative Russell Ellis, will outline the plan that the group would follow.

Mr. Ellis will show a movie on the way that the students would live, staying with a family for part of the time, and traveling for the remaining few weeks. After the movie and lecture interviews for interested students will be held. A group of ten is needed to make the project possible since a leader is an essential part of the plan and a smaller group would make this financially impossible.

France is the most probable destination of the Experiment group, but Italy, Sweeden and Germany are also possibilities.

The non-resident term office (Continued on Page 4)

First Impressions President Burkhart Going To Germany; Of A Vassar Girl Prof. Brockway Takes Over Duties





PRESIDENT BURKHARDT

PROFESSOR BROCKWAY

Wednesday for Washington to participate in meetings and consultations before flying to Frankfort, Germany, to take up his duties there as special consultant to the United States High Commissioner John J. McCloy. During his leave of absence for the 1950-51 academic year, Mr. Thomas Brockway of the political economy faculty will take over the duties of president.

Mr. Burkhardt, who served as Acting Chief of the Division of Research for Europe in 1945 and

Mr. Burkhardt, who was a member of the 0. S. S. during the war and chief of the Division of Research for Europe in 1945 and 1946, will deal with German youth organizations, the press, and, in fessors collaborated with him on, make any more speeches".

President Burkhardt left last | general, the problem of education | is a history of the English rationfor the German youth. Frankfort ing system during World War II. will be his headquarters.

Mr. Brockway was a Rhodes scholar at Oxford, received his Ph. D. from Yale, and taught at St. John's College, Dartmouth and Yale before coming to Bennington in 1933. During the war he was an officer of the Board of Economic Welfare. In 1948 and 1949 he served as president of the Vermont Forums.

Last Fall term, while on his sab-batical, Mr. Brockway did research for Harvard University on the English rationing system. During this time in Great Britain Mr. Brockway interviewed some 45 people, and the result of this work, which several Harvard pro-

The final manuscript was finished on Labor Day and has been sent to England to be checked, after which Mr. Brockway expects it to be published in book form. No date has been set, however.

To take on the job of acting president Mr. Brockway has been forced to halve his original schedule here at college since his teaching duties took up too much time. The course in Russian History which he was to have taught has been dropped from the curriculum and of the original ten counselees, Mr. Brockway now has five.

Of his future duties as acting president, Mr. Brockway's only comment was, "I won't have to

'Silo' Appoints New Members

The Silo, The Bennington College Literary Magazine, announces the appointment of several new members to its board: Katie Kingsford, editor; Nancy Smith, art editor; Evelyn Farney, business manager, Malin Carpe, Pat Fitzsimmons, and Dusty Hutton. Board members remaining from last term are Sue Mosher and Sue Lemberg and Daniel Shapiro and Francis Golffing as faculty advis-

The Silo was started in 1934 as a typewritten pamphlet of which only two copies were available. In 1941 it was symolically entitled The Silo because "Its (The Silo's) essential function is the storage and preservation of the green crops which have been selected and cured by the farmers". Originally both faculty and students contributed work representing all four divisions of study as well as describing college activities. This was assembled and published each month. Since the start of the college newspaper, **The Silo** has become primarily a literary magazine which is the "Workshop" for the Literature Dapartment. Unlike the college newspaper, The Silo does not use material which is specially prepared for the maga-The stories, poem, essays, and art work are a direct reflection of work that is done in class and in tutorials or individual conferences. The policy of The Silo is to avoid any set and inflexible method and pattern in selecting the work, but to judge the piece on its own terms. Students are urged to submit their work to The Silo and special attention is given to the writing of students whose work has not yet appeared.

Second Reserve

Call In Ten Years

Company C , 172nd Infantry Regiment of the 43rd Division covering the states of Vermont,

Rhode Island and Connecticut,

has been mobilized, which is the

reason for all the soldiers that

suddenly appeared and disappeared from the Old Soldier's

All reserves in this division,

one of the first to be mobilized,

have been called, and the last of

them left Bennington Monday at

noon after a parade through the

During their stay here the Divi-

sion used the Paradise as mess

headquarters. This marks the

second send-off of National

Guardsmen from Bennington in ten years. Quite a few of the

men are veterans of the last war.

home in Bennington.

"More Sheer Talent" | 550 Delegates At

Mr. Richard W. B. Lewis, a member of Bennington's literature department last year, will be in Europe this winter. He went last spring to lecture at the Salzburg Seminar in Austria, and will remain there through the winter as assistant director of the winter Seminar.

The Salzburg Summer Seminar is devoted to acquainting European students with various aspects of American life, culture and history. Mr. Lewis lectured on nineteenth and twentieth century writers, plus conducting a semi-nar on Melville. In a letter to Mr. Daniel Aaron, who lectured (Continued on Page 2)

NSA Convention

The third annual Congress of the National Students Association was held for ten exciting hectic days in Ann Arbor, Michigan. There were 550 delegates and as many observers and friends from colleges and universities from all over the country. Also represented were Hawaii, the Philippine Islands, Holland, and Austria.

The theme of the congress was "The Role of Educational Community.

Educational Community.

theme was elaborated and departmentalized into Jaur major units

(Continued on Page 4)

NSA COLLEGE



NSA CONVENTION



The Bennington Weekly

Editor	Susan Liebman
Assistant Editors	
Editorial BoardAnita Maximilian,	
Advertising Manager	Nancy Price
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Assistant	
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SUBSCRIPTI	ON RATES

On	Campus	\$1.40	Per	Term—\$2.75	Per	Year	
Off	Campus	\$1.50	Per	Term—\$3.00	Per	Year	

NO INTEREST IN CURRENT EVENTS

Bennington is acknowledged to have a stimulating intellectual atmosphere. To a certain extent that's true, but the atmosphere can be traced almost completely to the faculty. The students take it for granted, or allow themselves to stay in the circle of thinking which the faculty has created; they become involved in the particular courses they are taking and their thinking goes no further.

The number and range of the courses offered here is very wide. That, however, is no reason for students to pat themselves on the back. There are other subjects which could be taught here, but no one seems to think of them.

More and more the future of the United States is being decided by events taking place in Asia, Korea, China, Russia and India, and a study of these places would be invaluable in understanding just what America is up against in the world. A course in the history of Russia was scheduled for this year. Unfortunately it had to be dropped, and this was the only course of this kind on the curriculum. Now there are none.

The fact that there are none is unfortunate, but what is much worse is that the deficiency has not even been noticed by the students, and for an intellectually forward college this shows remarkable lack of consistency.

Perhaps a group of students could get together once a week, under faculty leadership, and hold seminar discussions on those countries. At least it's not too late for that.

Syracuse Students Here Over Summer

From July 24 to August 25, twenty student geographers sponsored by Syracuse University lived in Bingham House while receiving an intensive five-week training in field mapping technique. The time spent at Bennington was part of the group's field work for Syracuse University's accredited course. The group included undergraduate students as well as those working for their post-graduate degrees. Originating from various cities and colleges, the students surveyed and studied the land and the industry and agriculture for which it is utilized. The course commenced with seminars conducted by Dr. Stanley Dodge of the University of Michigan, Dr. George B. Cressey, head of the Syracuse University Department, and Dr. Henry Kendall, also of Syracuse.

Many townspeople and farmers, unaware of the group's purpose, mistook the students for Communists preparing to sabotage the land. This misunderstanding was quickly clarified to the relief of both parties.

COLLEGE ENTRANCE DINETTE

Hazel and Anne

Notices

There will be a Community meeting Monday night, September 25. The agenda will consist of reports by Executive and Judicial Committees, National Student Association, the store board, Community Chest, Non-resident terms Committee, and from the student treasurer, Augusta Welfer.

Any student interested in writing for the N. S. A. literary magazine "Essai" please contact Betsy Field, Kilpatrick 11, extension 302.

The Metaphysical group will meet in Barbara Paige's room, Stokes 11, every Monday night at 8:00.

Since Mr. Miller has been detained in Europe, the first lecture in the American Response to Crisis series will be Monday, October 2. The second lecture will be the following evening.

Starting next week The Bennington Weekly will carry a column on drama by Dorothy Miller and a column on literature by Anita Maximilian as regular features.

"More Sheer Talent"

(Continued from Page 1)

at the Seminar last year, he wrote that he had found . . . "more sheer talent, alertness, originality and power of thought, richness and variety of vision than I have ever seen assembled within four bulging walls."

Letters

We would like again to say to the new class "Glad You Came." We would like to do so by telling the members of the class about themselves. Here are the statistics: There are 122 of you and you represent 23 states and 6 foreign countries (Argentina, Cuba, Germany, Japan, Norway and Puerto Rico); 71 per cent. of you are from the East, 11 per cent from the Middle West, 6 per cent. from the Far West, 7 per cent. from the South and 5 per cent. from foreign countries; you come from both private and public schools, and 29 of you are transfer students coming from colleges such as Indiana University, Mills College, Radcliffe College, Sarah Lawrence College, Smith College, University of California and Vassar College; 3 of you are non-resident students and 3 of you are foreign students.

You obviously bring us many new points of view which ought to enliven and enrich the College. Our best wish for you is that the exchange between newcomers and old-timers will be mutually hap-

Violet C. Boynton,
Director of Admissions
Mary J. Shelly,
Director of Student Personnel.

Bennington **Publications**

Following is a list of fiction, non-fiction, and poetry recently published by members of the faculty and students at Bennington. All of the books are available here at the college.

On display in the Cooperative Store and in the College Library:

Belitt, Ben, 2 poems, "Goliath Stone" and "Bullring: Plaza Mexico" in Poetry magazine, August, 1950.

Burke, Kenneth—poem "The Conspirators," Furioso magazine, Summer, 1950.

Fowlie, Wallace—article on Paul Valery, Poetry, August, 1950.

Lewis, R. W. B.—"The Danger of Innocence," Yale Review, Spring, 1950.

Nemerov, Howard—"Guide to the Ruins," a volume of poetry, Random House.

In the library:

Burke, Kenneth—"Rhetoric of Motives," published in May, 1950, by Random House.

Goodman, Carol—"The Kingdom of Gordon," a short story, Mademoiselle magazine, August, 1950.

Hanks, Lucien and Jane—"Tribe Under Trust", University of Toronto Press.

Nemerov, Howard—A review of 6 recent novels, Sewanee Review, Summer, 1950.

Two books have been published recently by alumnae (copies are in the library):

Stedman, Susan Winter (coauthor), '41—"Discontent at the Polls", Columbia University Press. Swan, Emma, 1937—"The Lion and the Lady," a volume of poe-

try, New Directions. Erich Fromm's "Psychoanalysis & Religion" is due to be published in October, 1950.

Orchestra To Start Rehearsals Tuesday

The Bennington College orchestra will resume its rehearsals Tuesday, September 19, at 7:45 p. m. in the carriage barn on the campus. Plans for this year include besides smaller works by modern and old composers, Bach's "Suite in C," his "Concerto for Two Pianos and Orchestra in C Minor," and Mozart's "Clarinet Concerto."

In the spring the orchestra will participate in a performance of Mozart's "Mass in C Minor" which is being prepared by the Bennington Community Chorus. The conductor of both the orchestra and the community chorus is Paul Boepple, of the college music faculty.

Players of stringed and wind instruments who are interested in joining the orchestra should telephone the secretary of the music division at the college. The number is Bennington 5401.

RIDES REQUESTED

Marcia Lang and Eileen Passloff would like rides to New York today after 1:00. If anyone has room will they please call The Bennington Weekly.

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A man probed the index Of his primed mind And with dextrous skill Stole along and trapped The bubble he calls truth. And cupping hands He holds the nervous globe.

I have never had the chance To beat the dog to the rescue of a baby

Who is drowning in a six inch pool.

Nor have I faced the muzzle of

a gun
With undaunted eagle eye.
I haven't even faced a gun at all.
For that matter, I don't recall
Scaling the precipice
To save my father on the ledge.
And why did all the Perils
Happen to Pauline?
Someone must have forgotten me
Lili Moffat

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What's News

By Anne Mobley

Margaret Murphy, who works in the cooperative store, married Murray McGuire on August 19th.

Betsy Newman is now Mrs, William Ward. Bill graduated from Williams in June and has just recently been drafted.

Waldo Brighton '50 married James Edgar Jones during the summer.

Kay Brown, another one of last term's graduates, married William Pierce Smith of Cananjoharie, New York, on August 6th.

Richard W. P. Lewis, formerly of the Bennington College faculty, and Nancy Lindau '49, were married on the 28th of June.

Felicia Warburg '49 is now Mrs. Robert W. Sarnoff.

Louise Dickson was recently married to Mr. William Higbie Eddy, Jr., of Englewood, N. J.

Mishap-

Leila Inslee, Lorraine Lubart, Helene Ratner, two anonymous males and their car had an unexpected dunking in the Green River the other day. Results—The car was somewhat the worse for wear.

Summer Jobs-

According to the latest statistics available through Miss Funnell's office, 35 girls had jobs during the summer. Of this number, 26 were paid jobs and nine were volunteer. Summer camp jobs were the most popular among students since eight girls, the largest number in any one field, worked as counselors in various camps.

Ted Goodman looked somewhat mournful when I asked him about his summer. Ted spent 2½ weeks working for the Bennington Banner, during which time he wrote editorials and did some political reporting. Unfortunately, the biggest news break of the year came with the flood—two days after Ted left the paper.

the paper.

Bob Alvin, of the Drama Faculty, reports that he, his wife and Iago (their car with the personality) traveled more than 5,000 harmonious miles together during the summer. Must be that rheumatism plagues Iago when the

cold spell comes.

Lynn Fletcher and Solveig Peterson traveled across the country in a 1936 Chevy Truck which did double duty as both transportation and accomodation for them throughout their entire trip. Equipment included a stove in the back of the truck and clothes line which was strung from side to side, upon which the girls put all their laundry so that it would dry in the breeze as they winded their way westward.

Have you heard of the dancing horse doctor? Well, Al Shulman, who is new at Bennington this term, claims the most unusual background of any male dancer in captivity. He has a degree in agriculture from Illinois University.

Diane Boyden is teaching an experimental dance class for faculty children. Any music student interested in accompanying for the class should see her.

PROSPECTIVE REPORTERS

All new students who are interested in writing for The Bennington Weekly are requested to come to a staff meeting Tuesday, September 19, at 7:30 p. m., in Canfield living room.

Tennis, Baseball For Week-end

Recreation Council is offering a faculty-student tennis match starting this week-end, a baseball game on Sunday afternoon, and equipment for badminton, pingpong, hockey, pool and baseball for all interested, chairman Jill Warburg announced yesterday.

The tennis tournament, which will be mixed doubles, is scheduled to start tomorrow. The teachers who will play are Mr. Ford, Mr. Brockway, Mr. Nemers and Mr. Golffing.

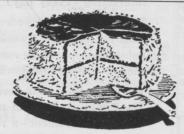
Anyone present on Commons lawn Sunday at 2:30 is more than welcome to play in the baseball game slated for that time, and student and faculty members can organize their own games whenever they wish. The hockey field is free all but Tuesday, Friday, and Thursday afternoons unless otherwise cleared, with Jill, since the North Bennington high school has it at those times.

Badminton is played in the Carriage Barn pit any time it is free, and the net kept upstairs, where it should be returned when students are through. The ping pong table, racquets and balls are also upstairs in the Carriage Barn as is the pool table.

All the rest of the equipment—baseball, bats, mits, badminton racquets, hockey sticks, are in the closet between the student lounge and Mr. Maguire's office. Anyone taking equipment from there is requested to sign for it on the list posted on the door, and cross her name off when she has returned it

has returned it.

Rec Council would appreciate any suggestions for further activities that students or teachers might have. Notes should be put in Jill Warburg's box, number 302



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Impressions On Professors' Works

By Elizabeth Ivory

There is an encouraging spectacle to be seen now in the Student Lounge in Commons. It is comprised of the work of three professors at Bennington College: Mr. George Holt, Mr. Daniel Shapiro and Mr. Bernard Kessler.

Mr. Holt has several new paintings which differ greatly from his former ones in their increased tension and color. I am thinking particularly of the third and fourth from the left in tempera.

Mr. Shapiro's vigorous and often stark etchings and prints are new and exciting to me. And there is a large complacent grasshopper that I would like to have on a wall in Mr. Kessler's house which comes next.

The photograph of this home struck me as having an unusually deep respect for human comfort and warmth.

I suggest that in the future the exhibits be marked with the dates and mediums of the works.

Mrs. Arnold Sundgaard has a dresser which she wants to sell. Her phone number is 220.

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RALEIGH

550 Delegates At **NSA Convention**

(Continued from Page 1)

or commissions so that the ideas and resolutions could be promoted and turned into constructive action on the national, regional, and campus levels of student activity.

The titles of the Commissions were Education, Student affairs, Organization, and International affairs. Within this framework various problems of our education today such as academic freedom, fraternity discrimination clauses, economic, and cultural welfare of the students were discussed.

Each of the four commissions, besides having discussion and actions on the specific sides of student activity had problems of major interest to all students. In the commission of Educational affairs the topic of academic freedom was the focal point of inter-The question to be resolved by the Congress was whether professors should be required to sign the loyalty oaths, and whether students should register all their political activity groups with the government (Mundt-Ferguson Bill). The N. S. A. Congress, deciding that both these actions encroached upon the fundamental democratic principles of freedom of speech and freedom of belief, condemned both the loyalty oaths and the Mundt-Ferguson Bill.

Communist Dominated

Whether to form a new union of International Students was the next question on the agenda. The international union of students now in operation is completely Communist dominated, and although the students of the United States agreed with their constitution they can no longer agree with the way in which the constitution is used. It was decided not to form a new union, however, because of the cost, impracticability, and the objections of foreign students.

The word in most constant use and most practical application at the Congress was "Cross Fertilization", the constant process of exchanging ideas and information. From these ideas programs are planned to take home to the individual campuses so that the welfare of the individual student will be improved.

Students May Spend NRT In Europe

(Continued from Page 1) and the non-resident term committee—Ann MacFarlane, Jane Neal and Betsy Newman Ward is wholeheartedly behind the project, as is President Burkhardt, who is on the Experiment Advisory Council. Miss Funnell terms the projected trip "the kind of dent term project."

Interested students should see either Betsy Winslow, the official campus representative for the Experiment, or Miss Funnell, so that they can be contacted for any further information that comes in.

Three Choral Groups This Year

To anyone interested Mixed Chorus will meet next Wednesday night, September 20th, at 7:45, to begin work on the Mass in C minor, by Mozart. Participation by college students will be limited to twenty or twenty-five, the remaining places to be filled by members of the faculty and staff, and townspeople. Any girl who has had previous experience in the Bennington chorus, or in other choruses, will be eligible. This does not mean that a candidate must have a trained voice, only that she have some knowledge of the techniques and problems involved in choral singing.

On the afternoon of the 20th, the hours from 4:00 to 6:00 have been designated for the first rehearsal of the Regular Chorus. This group, of course, is made up entirely of female voices. are no prerequisites. The Regular Chorus, however, will not take part in the Mass, but will sing a selection of equally worthwhile

For those who feel that they can read music with a certain amount of facility, and who can learn quickly, a small chorus is being organized. They will sing the Magnificat of Palestrina, and works by Couperin and Hon-For further information, negger. consult Mr. Boepple, Jennings Hall.

First Impressions

(Continued from Page 1) than a mark, which in a lecture course particularly, often tells her only how good or bad her cramming-ability is. Because the students here are able to discuss their work fully, they can develop a sense of responsibility to themselves instead of to their work as something apart from them.

The process of learning at Bennington is more active than it is at Vassar. Students are expected to participate in their work by actual "doing". The words of the classroom have more meaning because they are carried out in some sort of activity. There is more painting, dancing, playing of instruments and acting along with the discussion of theories and ideas than there is at Vassar. these activities can be carried out at a more individual level of understanding and speed since Bennington is smaller than Vassar. The size of the college and the number of faculty in proportion to students probably has a great deal to do with the fact that there are less restrictions and more flexibility here. Yet the program at Bennington seems to be a much more contemporary one-in the sense that here the gap between college and "outside world" seems to be smaller than it was at Vassar. The work period, when stuactivity the college really wants to promote as an official non-resipart of the college helps to bridge part of the college helps to bridge

this gap.

Two years at Vassar are not wasted years, but in comparing Bennington and Vassar it seems that in most ways Bennington has continued to grow beyond a point which Vassar has already reached.

Orientation

Few students at Bennington know exactly the personnel, purpose and the functions of the Executive Committee. It is composed of Joan Olmstead as chairman, Ruth Miller as secretary, Annie Briggs, Georgie Maxfield and Sydney Brucker. It serves as the central switchboard mechanism and and relays information, suggestions and complaints to the various committees on campus.

Specifically, it must run the Community meeting, the legislative process of the government, it must appoint the student treasurer and the fire chief.

This year it has undertaken as one of its functions a new method of freshmen orientation. In years past, finding that reporting its various duties and functions to the freshmen "en masse" was ineffective. So now they have subdivided the freshmen into four groups. The executive committee and the judicial committee meet with each one of these groups an evening. A panel discussion is then held which describes the purposes and functions of each of the committees present, thus bringing the structure of the community government of Bennington and the relationship of the student to the government, into clearer focus.

American Response To Crisis Meets

American Response to Crisis, an experimental course devoted to the intense study of fifteen crises in American history, with the eventual aim of making some well based generalizations about American principles and values, met for the first time Tuesday morn-

The course is being sponsored by the Carnegie Institute and will serve as the basis of a book which will describe the course, its contents and its implications and contributions to historical education. Mr. Aaron, who is teaching the course, will write the introduction to the book.

There will be a lecture every other week, fifteen in all, in which qualified speakers will present their views and ideas on the particular crisis the class has just studied. These lectures will be on Monday nights and the Com-munity is invited to attend. There will be panel discussions on Wednesday afternoons, led by members of the class, during which the foregoing lecture, plus other relevant material, will be discussed. All members of the Community are invited to attend these discussions.

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