

THE BEACON

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College Chooses Dewey as Next President

Out of a total of two-hundred and thirty votes cast, one-hundred-twenty went to Thomas E. Dewey. Wallace was a far-behind runner up with forty-two votes. Truman was next with thirty-four, followed by Thomas with twenty-five. Thurmond was a strong last with one vote cast in his behalf. The breakdown by classes is as follows:

Total Freshman vote, forty-five
Dewey 14, Wallace 9, Truman 6, Thomas 5, Thurmond 1.

Total Sophomore vote, sixty-two
Dewey 35, Wallace 13, Truman 7, Thomas 7.

Total Junior vote, forty-five
Dewey 28, Truman 11, Wallace 4, Thomas 2.

Total Senior vote, twenty-five
Dewey 16, Thomas 5, Truman 3, Wallace 1.

Total Faculty vote, Thirty-one
Wallace 14, Dewey 7, Truman 6, Thomas 4.

Total Staff vote, fourteen
Dewey 10, Thomas 2, Truman 1, Wallace 1.

The Beacon Welcomes

The Beacon is pleased to announce that Linda Borden is the new Assistant Editor. Jane Roberts is new advertising manager and her assistant is Elizabeth Winslow. Fanny Parsons is in charge of the layout.

This year the Beacon has changed its system of tryouts. All those interested in joining the staff become apprentices for the first month and are assigned articles. At the end of this period, the new staff will be announced.

The apprentices are: Edith Askin, Gloria Berger, Annie Briggs, Reva Brown, Sydney Brucker, Beverly Butler, Marianne Byk, Stephanie Chamberlain, Suzanne Coblentz, Elizabeth Corey, Caroline Crane, Joanne Evans, Lynn Fletcher, Jane Fuller, Anne Goodman, Jonne Hutton, Jerene Jones, Cynthia Kelley, June Klensch, Ruth Lyford, Nadya Margulies, Olivia Pattison, Martha Powell, Ellen St. Sure, Barbara Smith, Amanda Street, Anne Treichler, Jill Warburg, Virginia Wilson.

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Norman Thomas Opens 1948 Election Series

Norman Thomas, as the first speaker in the General Meetings Election Series, spoke September 23rd on "A Socialist Alternative for America."

He emphasized the fact that "no one can give any assurance of any conceivable action to guarantee peace in our time;" that the problem of averting war requires expression in world government. "However, war cannot be averted by talk of world government within the next few months or the next few years . . . one thing worse than no world government is the wrong kind of world government . . . I do not want to consider a Communist world government."

Communist Drive for Power

"There is no disguising the drive for power which is the essence of Communism. It has the force of a world-wide religion." Faced with this drive for power, our recourse has been to produce arms in order to produce fear which we hope will produce peace. However, the very process of arming, jeopardizes many of our standards and our democracy.

No Appeasement of Soviet Union

It is idle to talk of peace or averting war by appeasement of the Soviet Union. The drive of Communism is paralleled to the drive of Islam, only this is a secular religion—Communism must have all the power to gain power. Appeasement can only gain a little time, and if the alternative is war, it will be an atomic war with improved weapons of destruction. We certainly can't have

lasting peace by one more victory in an atomic war. In deciding what is necessary to be done, we have neglected the appeals we can make to the peoples of the world. It should be an appeal to the United Nations stating our passionate desire to avoid militarism. There is nothing more that Americans would desire than to withdraw our forces, but they would do so only with the assurance there would be careful inquiry and inspection to ensure that there would be no subsequent illegal coup d'etat.

Moreover, atomic warfare should be taken out of the realm of conflict and as a guarantee that settlements achieved would not be upset by any armies, there should be an end to the armament race, for the nervous tension in itself precipitates war. By disarmament, Mr. Thomas seems to mean: international control of atomic energy with international supervision; equivalent disarmament in other fields; demilitarization of narrow waterways; universal abolition of peacetime military conscription; and abrogation of the veto power in cases judging acts of aggression.

Attention to Techniques of Democracy

More attention must be paid to the techniques of democracy. More than the question of which candidate is elected is the necessity of the rise of the idea that there must be a fellowship of free men capable of using their resources to conquer poverty. A vote for the Socialist Party is not thrown away, for "you throw away your vote when you vote for what you don't want, and get it."

Campus Progressive Party Meets

The Bennington College Wallace For President group held its first meeting of the term on Wednesday, September 15. Over 35 members were present, and the Bennington and Manchester groups were represented. The chairman opened the meeting by welcoming new members, and gave a report on the work done by the group last term. The first business of the meeting was to elect a new Executive Council. Carol Diamond, Patton Galloway, Joyce Perry, Sondra Tschabasov and Mr. Bellit will serve as members. The chairman announced that the Progressive Party of Vermont will hold its State Convention on October 3, and asked that all members who are planning to attend the Convention

(Continued on page 5)

The Vermont Forums

The Vermont Forums, a non-political, non-profit organization was begun in Bennington about four or five years ago; one of the founders being Edward P. Jennings. It soon grew to be a state wide organization consisting of eight centers governed by statewide trustees.

Subjects of Lectures

The series of forums this year will start on October 11 at the Bennington High School where the subsequent forums will also be held. Mr. Abend, who has been a New York Times correspondent for 15 years and has written books on foreign policy, together with Mr. Scott Nearing, prominent in political affairs, will conduct a forum on how America will meet its responsibility for world leadership in the presidential

(Continued on page 4)

Introducing New Faculty

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Thrilled With Bennington

Mr and Mrs. Allan Lewis, although exhausted from a busy day of counseling and theatre rehearsals, still found enough energy to tell us how thrilled they were with Bennington. They both feel that Bennington is a most unusual school, where students and teachers alike are working for a common goal. Bennington, they said, compares favorably with any theatrical school in the country, as well as giving its students a good liberal arts education. And, added Mr. Lewis, where else can one get private lessons on the oboe?

Plans for the Drama Department

The Lewises realize the impossibility of superimposing any radical plans on the newly reorganized drama department. "We want to establish, in the framework of a general education college, the theatre as a functioning liberal art," said the Lewises. They are going to train girls to be theatre workers, possessing a wide variety of theatrical experiences. "The theatre," said Mr. Lewis, "is not to be treated as professional, but rather as a living experience of the arts." Mr. and Mrs. Lewis feel that Broadway is not the real American theatre, for frequently it is only the box office which determines the form and content of plays. They will try to produce plays at Bennington which the commercial theatre cannot do. They wish to combine, not only the dance, but also the music, art, and even social studies departments in their productions. "The theatre at Bennington then will be the focal point for most of the college curriculum," said Mr. Lewis.

New Playwrights to be Discovered

Mrs. Lewis, who teaches playwrighting, feels that Bennington can be the outlet for young men and women to experiment in the theatre. "We want original plays and playwrights, who ordinarily would not be able to see their plays produced on Broadway." Mrs. Lewis hopes that plays written in her playwrighting course, will be used as material for Drama Workshop, and eventually produced for the Bennington community. "Our standards are still high," said Mrs. Lewis, "but we are thrilled with the potentials."

Background

Before coming to Bennington, Allan Lewis lectured and directed plays at the Actor's Laboratory Theatre in California. He has taught at Stanford University and at the University of Southern California. During the war he was in the Special Services.

Brooke Waring Lewis has had careers in both the art and theatre world. She has been a fresco painter, muralist, and has done fashion design for Wanamakers, Gimbels, and many other leading department stores in New York City.

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October 1 Open House for Williams, R. P. I.

On Friday night, Oct. 1, The Recreation Council will sponsor an "open house" for Williams College and R.P.I. All Bennington Students, especially freshmen are invited.

Other Rec. Council Plans

Coming events include a bridge tournament, square dances, and some hockey games with the Zeta Psi and St. Anthony Fraternities of Williams. The formal dance will take place during the weekend of November 13th.

THE BEACON

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The Value of Evaluation

In the College Week of September 23, the students were informed of a new educational policy. At mid-term every student is to write an evaluation of her work in each course and the respective instructor will write a comment.

One of the first questions that comes to mind is whether or not this new procedure was instituted to help the student or the faculty member. It seems probable that the change occurred because the faculty have difficulty in writing mid-term reports as they have not had sufficient chance to evaluate the student's work.

Even granting the validity of this case as far as faculty are concerned, which we do not, it seems that the student has little to gain from it and a good deal to lose. "But," the defendant will say, "isn't self-evaluation on the part of the student desirable?" The answer is "yes," but not in this manner. The student's evaluation of her work, according to the New System, will be of no benefit, to her or her faculty. Either the student will take the opportunity to gloss over poor work by building herself up, or she will be trying to find the happy medium between sounding overly self-congratulatory and being ridiculously modest. It seems that very few people will write an honest evaluation when they know that a comment will be based on their words. Doesn't it defeat the whole supposed purpose of the Bennington report, (a report is to show the student where she needs work), to make her write this kind of invalid comment? To find out what kind of results this system will produce it is only necessary to examine the pat phrases that are repeated on Senior Division applications. The student realizing that what she says affects her chances of getting into Senior Division, writes a neat little piece which she thinks is what the Committee will want to read. Not infrequently her counselor assists in this planned attack.

It seems to us, therefore, that the only satisfactory method of evaluation is one on a completely individual basis. In Senior Division a student who is qualified to do "sustained, independent work," should also be qualified to evaluate this work without help. In Junior Division, it should be evident to the counselor if a student needs help and he should plan with the student a satisfactory method of evaluation.

Aside from the merits or lacks of the plan itself, a complaint must be registered about the method of instituting it. The present EPC did not pass it and the situation at College has changed since it was passed. At the time that the old EPC considered it, the faculty contention—that they didn't know enough about the students—had validity, because many classes were too large and there were too few faculty. Now, however, with many new teachers and smaller classes, this consideration is unnecessary. As most of the students are not in favor of the plan, it seems unlikely that the present EPC would approve it. It is to be hoped that they will be given a chance to speak for the students before the plan becomes an actuality.

The College Week calls the previous-

Those Josh White Blues

On the afternoon of September 18, at New York's Town Hall, Josh White, aided and abetted by his seven-year-old son, Josh White, Jr., proved, once and for all, that you can't believe everything you read. The advanced blurb announcing the concert included this statement: "Josh White...has a unique place on the concert stage, because all of his songs are his own, having been gathered in Josh's youth while leading blind minstrels through the deep South."

That White has a unique place on the concert stage is undeniable, but not for the reasons stated. He very definitely sings material which is not "his own" (as if that were possible), and it includes sea chanties, English ballads and riddle songs, Mother Goose songs, and such store-bought stock as "The House I Live In," and "Strange Fruit." That Josh happened to have led blind minstrels through the streets of Memphis and Macon may very well be true, but in the past eight years he hasn't produced a single shred of musical evidence to support even this modest claim.

Spirit Of His Race

Another blurb stated that Josh White evokes "the spirit of his race" in singing "such ballads as 'The Riddle,' or 'Cherry Song,' 'Hard Time Blues,' 'Water Cress,' 'One Meat Ball' and 'Strange Fruit.'" The phrase "spirit of his race" is a tough one to handle, but if it is supposed to mean that he sings in the American Negro tradition, the statement is dead wrong. Of the five songs mentioned only "Hard Time Blues" comes anywhere near this alleged "spirit," and even at that the distance is considerable.

All of this misrepresentation would probably have passed unnoticed were it not for the fact that the concert clearly emphasized White's unbelievably consistent poor taste. To begin with, let it be said that allowing half the program to be sung by an innocent child with little to offer but some stage presence and a decent sense of rhythm, was just cheap showmanship, pure and simple. As for the elder White, he displayed his usual talent for making a quasi-blues out of everything he sings, and his most well-developed fault—a total lack of discrimination. Not only does he make a habit out of choosing inferior material but he chooses songs he can't sing properly. His "bluesy" sensuality pervades all that he attempts, from "Jelly Jelly" to "The House I Live In."

Varied Selection

His attempts at the English ballads have been ludicrous, as ludicrous as the unfortunate battles Richard Dyer-Bennet has been giving "John Henry" over the years. At Town Hall he sang his version of "Barbara Allen," the best-known English ballad in America. Unlike Leadbelly, whose "Gallus Pole" is a fine example of how old English material was altered to fit Negro musical patterns, Josh chose to imitate the Southern Appalachian style exemplified by John Jacob Niles and Burl Ives. While basically White's version was like Niles', he couldn't keep his thoroughly conscious "bluesy" elements out of it, and the good old mountain-style "Barbara Allen" had to suffer through completely incongruous "blue notes" and the typically Josh White glissandi, which start about a whole tone below the note and work up, slowly and tortuously, to a tremulous finish.

Another kind of song White offered at his concert is typified by "The Man Who Couldn't Walk Around," an appalling mawkish eulogy for FDR, and "Atom and Evil," a piece warning us not to allow atomic energy to be used for military purposes. In spite of the

ly discussed program "the first change". On behalf of the student-body, we request that the future changes be more fairly discussed before another similar memo from the Student Personnel Office is printed in the College Week.

Inquiring Reporter

The New Sunday Meal Schedule

There are varied opinions concerning the present Sunday meal schedule. Some students like the new system of meals at 10:30 and 4:30, while others have suggestions for improvement.

Martha Woodcock: (Transfer from Smith) "I don't like the new system. On Sunday mornings I like to get up around 8:00 to study and I need a meal then. Also the 4:30 meal breaks up the afternoon and I get hungry in the evening. If you have a date, his meals at college conflict with your free time and vice-versa. I'd like to have breakfast at 9:30, dinner at 1:00 and a light supper in the evening."

Gail Gardner: (Sophomore) "I think it's a wonderful idea. It leaves lots of unbroken time for study and I enjoy a late breakfast."

Suzanne Lochhead: (Junior) "I think the new system makes the day too social. If we can't have the old system again, I wish we could have an earlier breakfast."

Petrie Manning: (Junior) "I like it because I can sleep late and because it gives a free Sunday evening to the help in the kitchen. But it breaks up the day at the library. On Sundays, the library should be opened right after breakfast and stay open all day."

Ruth Livingston: (Senior) "I think the new system is terrible. There should be a great protest and the schedule should be changed immediately back to the old way. Our stomachs do not know that it is Sunday."

Barbara Gail: (Freshman) "I think the system should be changed. There should be breakfast at the regular weekday time. Many people sleep through the late breakfast anyway. We should have dinner from 1:00-2:00 and a light supper."

Joan Tewksbury: (Junior) "With the new system there's not enough to eat. We should go to the regular meal hours with a cafeteria style breakfast, dinner served in the middle of the day and a light cafeteria style supper, in which we can make our own sandwiches."

Rosemary Lawrence: (Sophomore) "I like the new system with the late breakfast. I think having only two meals is fine. I lose weight."

noble sentiments they express, these songs ring blatantly false, and could do justice to no singer, particularly not Josh White. It should go without saying that listeners to a seven-year-old-boy sing words, "...and taught him how to gamble with humanity's fate," can be a painful experience indeed.

White has also sung such "parodies" of Negro songs as "Jim Crow Train." In his article, "Some Bankrupt Treasures," in the summer issue of *The Kenyon Review*, Stanley Hyman discusses this kind of song, and makes the valuable distinction between two traditions, "one hermetic and symbolic, the other directly militant," and writes that "the songs effective in terms of social action have more often than not tended to be the former...." "Jim Crow Train" falls into the second category, and for all its superficial militancy, it hasn't half the punch of its symbolical original, "This Train." Josh White, who is by all means justified in protesting Jim

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EPC Changes

Barbara Birsh has been chosen by the EPC to be its head for this term. She succeeds Carol Black in this position. Mary Lou White has been elected by the drama field to be its EPC representative. She replaces Katherine Ballantyne, who is taking a term away from College.

Republicans See Omen of Victory

"As Maine goes, so goes the nation" is a political slogan which invariably attracts widespread attention in a presidential election year despite the fact that Maine has been a Republican stronghold for some sixty years. Because Maine's constitution stipulates that the state election should be held on the second Monday in September—two months before the rest of the nation goes to the polls—political observers look to Maine's voting behavior for some indication of the political sentiments which will be expressed on a national scale in November.

Although all Republican candidates on the ticket won by substantial majorities this September, Maine's election results this year were newsworthy primarily because of the record-breaking victory of Mrs. Margaret Chase Smith, a Republican Senatorial candidate, over her Democratic opponent. Republicans hailed the election as an unmistakable indication of a sweeping Republican victory in November, but tended to overlook the fact that the other Republican candidates in Maine won by less impressive majorities than did Mrs. Smith. Democrats, on the other hand, claimed that this year's results merely demonstrated that "Maine, which has always been Republican, is still Republican."

Republican Tradition

Although Maine was a Democratic state when it was admitted to the Union in 1819, its Republican tradition dates back to the early 1880's. During the Republican era earlier in this century the outcomes of these September elections were regarded as creditable indications of national sentiment. However, since the 1930's when Maine remained staunchly Republican on all national issues although New Deal victories were sweeping the country, Maine has ceased to be regarded as a reliable barometer of public opinion. Nevertheless, percentage figures revealed by these early local elections have often proved to be valid indications of shifting public opinion on a national scale. This is shown by the fact that Maine elected a Democratic governor in 1932 and reelected him in 1934 although the Republicans returned to power in the next election.

In recent years, however, local issues have become a paramount factor in Maine's state elections with the result that the state is less susceptible to national trends. And since polling techniques have been developed which provide a more reliable measurement of national political sentiments, the results of Maine's early election are not taken as seriously as they once were. This year, however, a discredited political slogan may redeem itself, for the first public opinion polls of the 1948 presidential campaign confirm the fact that as Maine went Republican in September, so will the nation go in November.

Subscribe to THE BEACON



3 Movies of Interest Presented to Community

THREE REVIVALS

The first three movies presented this term have shown considerably more variety of subject matter than the program adhered to last year. "The Dead of Night," a British film, dealt with fate and phantasy, illustrating through several incidents the recurrence of certain visions which had affected the lives of the people concerned. The main thread of the picture was of a dream-within-a-dream, questioning the reality of existence. Actually the picture gained its effect mainly through shock, utilizing phenomena that startled the audience. It pleasantly combined the elements of mystery—the unknown causes of coincidence and the fear of what is not totally apprehended and cannot be completely understood by reason—with interesting tales and characterizations. The personalities were not particularly acute and the characters were only interesting because of the particular event they related. The picture was especially enjoyable to many who found it an escape into the realm of probable fantasy.

"Cage of Nightingales"

"Cage of Nightingales," also a foreign made film, produced in France, was somewhat along the general lines of "Going My Way." It illustrated how the hearts of all, even bitter reform school boys, can be won over by an understanding young tutor who teaches them love through the magic of music. The personification of the young inmates was considerably inferior to the children portrayed in "Shoeshine" yet infinitely more real than the child usually shown in American films of the same nature. The chorus of young boys was especially good and there were moments of humor and tenderness when the audience responded wholeheartedly. The acting of Noel-Noel, a French Orson Welles who participated considerably in the directing and general production of the picture, was natural and unaffected. The young actors were convincing as well and the "happy ending" of the picture always a relief to an American audience.

"The Informer"

"The Informer," a story adapted from one by Liam O'Flaherty presents Victor McLaglen in the role of a simple Irishman, victim of all the most sensuous wants of mankind. He was at one time member of an underground organization, fighting against the British for the independence of Eire as an Irish free state. The action of the story takes place in Dublin, about 1922. Solely for the 20 pound reward offered, Jibbo, as he is called, turns informer on his friend and is consequently pursued by the underground who fear he may divulge further information. McLaglen, the central character, aptly illustrates the effects the newly gained riches have upon him. His enormous strength and the prestige of his wealth make him king for a night. He suffers little, if any, remorse. His deed was done not out of malice nor even of particular greed because he was completely ignorant, obeying few social mores and was unaware of such human traits as loyalty or honor. To the end he tries to evade confession of his crime. Even the motivation was a confused impulse: to secure money for a street girl who was attached to him and pleaded for his safety. He procured the reward money for her, in the hope of escaping from the aimless degenerate life they both led. There is some allusion and comparison to Judas and the betrayal of Christ but this is not as important as the analysis of this modern Informer.

The future program for the Saturday night movies promises to be as varied and entertaining. Apparently the appeal of these movies reviewed had sufficient appeal to the tastes of the diversified community.

Faculty Musicians Present Concert

One of the basic beliefs in the educational system of this college is that a greater understanding of the world can be taught by the study of its art forms. The performance given by the musical faculty on Thursday night, September 16, amply demonstrated this theory.

The first work performed, Handel's Third Concerto, presented immediately a social aspect for consideration. The score, which follows the scheme of a four movement Baroque sonata, was written for oboe and a small string orchestra. Under our cultural influence, it is now being performed on cello and piano. Whether or not that combination is artistically valid for this score is not the point to be argued, for certainly the audience enjoyed the lovely tones produced by Mr. Finkle's cello; but the danger of this transcription must be carefully understood. The difference between our instrumentation and that of the Baroque period, whether cello in place of the viola da gamba or even the oboe, or piano instead of the harpsichord, is strictly due to our desire for the grandiose. The acoustical conditions of our tremendous concert halls demand a change in instruments and in instrumentation. But if the demand causes such a change that only the inflated conditions are known, then soon the public knowledge and appreciation of the performance will be changed to such an extent that the original conditions will not even be known by most listeners.

The group of four songs by Gustav Mahler brought forth another aspect to be considered. They were indicative of a dichotomy in all Arts, that of the archaic or eternal quality combined with a modern temporal quality. Simple folk melodies were placed against a nervous accompaniment with deceptive simplicity. Neither the romantic text so concerned with blue flowers, blue eyes, and a linden tree nor the Viennese phrases could hide the other element of ironic prophecy which Mahler saw in his personal struggle from Judaism to Catholicism. The songs show a confusion in the desperate struggle for belief in an idealistic world, but the melodies Mahler has composed could only be an utterance of a sincere and good man. They employ neither trickery nor treachery and if anyone would care to hear them further developed, may discover them again in Mahler's First Symphony.

The discovery that Hindemith can be compared to Beethoven, as brought out by Mr. DeGray's unrestrained teaching impulses, was a shock to many of the people in the audience. Wasn't it an excellent idea, however, to have an explanation before the performance, since modern music is hard to follow without such a preamble to dispell its obscurity? If you did not like either Mr. DeGray's analysis or interpretation of the Third Sonata by Hindemith, you have every right to pursue another source. But this would be a little like jumping from the frying pan into the fire. Or if you are still dissatisfied with another authority, you might consider a careful study of the score and a personal performance of it, but this would be more like dropping through the grate.

Ann Goodman

Two New Octet Members

The Octet, led by Sally Whiteley, has added two new members this term after a siege of tryouts; replacing Nancy Gregg and Nina Pattison in the first alto and first soprano parts respectively. Suzanne Bunker is the new alto, and Sally Pickells the soprano.

Elements of Design Exhibited in Commons

"Design Is Everywhere." This statement is printed in clear, black letters on the first poster of the exhibition in Commons. It is a startling statement because few of us realize that wherever we turn our eyes, we are always viewing design. It is easy to get into the habit of looking at things without really "seeing" them, such as a cloud, a thumb print, the sea.

What Is Design? In general terms, Mr. Holt of the Art Faculty, describes it as, "The consideration of formal elements which go into the making of any pictorial organization." This explanation applies to architecture, painting, and other fields. The exhibition breaks down this general explanation into the actual elements of design. The number and variety of these elements are also surprising, for rarely are either space, values, or light considered as part of design.

Five Examples

The five principle categories of design, with which the exhibition deals, are texture, line, space, light and color. The posters demonstrate the various functions of these elements, among them: the formation of contours by lines; the use of light in our everyday life; and the effect colors have on each other in their varied proportions.

These posters which were used as an introduction to the newly established "Design" course, are executed with great clarity, forcefulness, and artistry. The excellent illustrations are not subordinate to the written information but almost speak for themselves, creating a lasting impression.

This excellent exhibition was planned by Robert Jay Wolff in collaboration with Victor D'Amico, Ellodie Couter and Alice Otis, under the auspices of the Museum of Modern Art.

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Alumnae Album

Alexandra Crawford is in Paris doing newspaper writing and "independent" writing.

Diane Lloyd-Smith is engaged to Donald Hewat. They will be married this winter.

Christina Marquand married Richard Edwin Welch jr. on September the 4th. They will live in Cambridge, Mass.

Anna Easton Poor became Mrs. Lindsey M. Parrot jr. on August the 28th.

Mr. and Mrs. Nathaniel R. Potter jr. (Gail Caricof), who were married on September the 11th, are going to live in France.

Frances Morgan and George White jr. were married on September the first.

Sonya Rudikoff is painting and hopes to take a job in the publishing business.

Deane Worth is working on her M. A. in Drama at Smith College.

Elinor Gottlieb is working on a new magazine, Scientific America.

Florence Sullivan & Eloise Moore have left for San Francisco where they plan to take an apartment together.

Barbara Bowles will be married in N. Y. on Oct. 16 to Hamilton Coolidge.

Ann Landis, Joy Fields, & Lois Klopfer have transferred respectively to Radcliffe, Columbia & Iowa State University.

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Introducing New Faculty

(Continued from page 1)

Mrs. Lewis has also done newspaper work, playwriting, and is at present working on two novels.

G. I. Students

Other additions to the Drama Department are five men who are working on a student-faculty assistant basis. They have come to Bennington under the GI Bill of Rights in order to obtain greater experience and a fuller theatre education.

Coe Norton has come from the Actor's Laboratory Theatre in Hollywood where he has played in many of their productions, among them Peer, in "Peer Gynt." He has played in various motion pictures and in coming to Bennington relinquished a part in Broadway's forthcoming musical "Lend an Ear."

Jerry Fritz is also from the Actor's Laboratory Theatre where he was stage manager and played in innumerable productions.

Jack Devoe is a direct importation from the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts in London.

Richard Deacon is from Ithaca College and participated in the renowned Finger Lakes Dramatic Festival.

Bill Darred, a member of New York's Neighborhood Playhouse, has played various roles in summer stock.

Production Plans

The first public workshop will consist of scenes taken from Mr. Lewis' drama class. The department hopes to produce a few one-act plays at the end of the term, but plans are still tentative.

Mr. Sperling

Mr. Phillip Sperling, one of the new faculty members in the social science division is a clinical psychologist. A graduate of New York University with a masters from Columbia, Mr. Sperling interned in clinical psychology at the State School, Warwick, New York in 1940, and was supervisor of interns in the New York State Psychological Intern Training Program in 1946. For five years during the war, he served with the U. S. Army as Director and Aviation psychologist for some of their Psychological Research Projects. However, Mr. Sperling's main interest is social psychology; he believes it is opening up many new possibilities for the study of "human relations."

Taught at Michigan

Mr. Sperling first became interested in Bennington when he was teaching psychology at the University of Michigan from 1946-48. Having attended large traditional colleges and lecturing to classes of two to three hundred students, he felt that he was "missing out on something." He enjoyed teaching but wanted to teach at a small progressive college where he could come into closer contact with his students. Working with Dr. Newcomb of the graduate school of psychology at Michigan and former faculty member of Bennington college, he heard about the Bennington educational program.

Since arriving, Mr. Sperling has developed even more enthusiasm for Bennington. He has found that in contrast to other schools, students here are more mature both in their work and in their development of standards and rules. He mentioned that in Michigan, speech making by political candidates or political activities on their behalf are frowned upon by the administration and school authorities. Here, he was interested to see that "there are posters for Wallace and the College Week announces speakers for all parties."

British University System

Having attended the University of Edinburg from 1936-39, Mr. Sperling thinks that British higher education is superior to that given in the average university in this country. However, it

The Vermont Forums

(Continued from page 1)

campaign. In December Norman Thomas and a representative from the United World Federalists will speak on world government.

No statewide forum has been scheduled for January. Local forums, however, will have the opportunity to hold a meeting on some vital local issue. The February topic is concerned with health conditions in Vermont. Although several of the forums relate particularly to Vermont, the problems discussed may be applied to any other locality. The speakers for the March forum have not as yet been decided upon; however, the topic will be "What Is Un-American?; what are the dangers of the American system which guarantees civil liberties to all?; how can we strengthen our heritage of freedom and still avoid opening the door to subversive influence?" The April forum, "What Do We Want From Our Schools?," will have three representatives: national, state, local.

Subscription Information

The subjects this year have been compiled from requests. The forums in Bennington will be held on the second Monday of each month on which night the college will not hold any scheduled meetings. Transportation will be arranged for either in faculty or college cars. The membership subscription for students is \$1.75, for others \$3.50 and for couples \$5.00. Tickets to a single forum cannot be purchased. Mr. Garceau, Mr. Brockway and Mr. Hanks are the faculty representatives. The representatives in each house on campus who have subscriptions and information are as follows:

Stokes-Sanford, Marcia Eastman; Woolley, Sondra Parkoff; Franklin, Ellen St. Sure; Canfield, Judith Seaver; Dewey, Ruth Lyford; McCullough, Virginia Allen; Welling, Phyllis Sidenberg; Bingham, Wendy Keate; Leigh, Mary Lou Kingsbury; Booth, Jennifer Brown; Swan, Travis Foote; Kilpatrick, Cynthia Cooke.

is very similar to Bennington in many respects. For example, in the British University system, the teacher advertises his course for enrollment and is paid by each individual registrant. Consequently, the abilities of a teacher are measured not by seniority or rank, but by student evaluation. In Bennington, he regards the student EPC as somewhat comparable to this system.

Mr. Sperling spends his spare time in reading, following with interest his wife's stamp collection and writing his doctor's thesis on "group cohesiveness".

(This is the first of a series of new articles presenting new faculty and staff members; their previous experience and future plans.)

Student Manuscripts Wanted

Mr. Allan Lewis is interested in seeing any student manuscripts of one act plays. Those that are suitable will be considered for production.



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RALEIGH

Campus Progressive Party Meets

(Continued from page 1)

notify the Committee as soon as possible so that transportation may be arranged. The group decided to postpone election of delegates to the Convention until the next meeting, to be held in about a week. At that time resolutions for the State Platform will also be considered.

Radio Programs Planned

The group voted to prepare and conduct a series of radio programs to be presented during the month of October. The programs will deal with current issues, and it is expected that they will be broadcast over Station WKOB in North Adams. A committee was formed to take charge of the organization and presentation of the programs. In addition, a finance committee was formed to collect dues and secure funds for the programs.

Mr. Hanks reported that 1300 signatures had been collected in Vermont, thereby placing Wallace and Taylor on the ballot for the final election in November. Only 700 were required. Ben Meyer of Chicago told of the obstacles encountered in trying to get Wallace on the ballot in Illinois. He explained how Progressive candidates were kept off the ballot by a technicality, although they had collected 85,000 signatures, or more than three times the amount required by the State laws. Mr. Meyer said that "Vermont is to be congratulated that citizens of all political parties are willing to let the ballot decide."

National Convention

Reports on the National Convention were given by Joyce Perry, Carol Diamond, and Fred Nickelwhite of Manchester. They regretted the unfair coverage of the Convention by the press, and agreed that the issues presented at the Convention were fairly handled and that the delegates were satisfied with the way the Convention was run. The speakers stressed the friendly and enthusiastic spirit of the Convention, and the sincere cooperation of the delegates.

Reports were given of the work of the Progressive Party and its activities in other areas, and plans were made to secure speakers during the term. It is hoped that all members will be present at the next meeting, which will deal with issues confronting the State Convention.

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"We Have No Time"

An Interview with Norman Thomas

Mr. Thomas has been the Socialist candidate for president six times. At sixty-four years of age, he is tall, grey-haired and an impressive speaker. His blue-grey eyes seem to challenge his opponents. Even in private conversation he speaks with conviction and assurance.

Interviewing him, it was difficult to know where to begin. His background and platform are well-known and he has repeated his plans for foreign and domestic policy many times. I was first interested to know about the activities of Socialist student groups on college campuses. Apparently what groups exist are active but not numerous enough. In the present campaign there are many SDA members supporting Mr. Thomas although not all openly. During the year the Socialist party conducts discussion classes especially for adult education, trade union committees and a general program "to promote understanding and advance the theories of socialism."

When asked his opinion on ADA (Americans for Democratic Action) Mr. Thomas berated their indecision and attitude of "sitting out the battle." (ADA primarily endorsed William O. Douglas who declined to present himself as a candidate for office. They are now officially supporting Harry S. Truman although there are many individuals and local branches who are working for other candidates.) Mr. Thomas continued to emphasize the considerable effect that he felt a minority vote had. He stated that any political group which takes no action is ludicrous and ineffective. "The time is past for that. We have no time." He implied that inability to make up one's mind is organizational futility.

Attitude Toward Progressives

When asked his opinion on the Progressive party Mr. Thomas was especially emphatic. He observed that the Wallace party is a Communist front. In reply to a question suggesting that the Communists had previously gained power only by force and not by the electoral procedure, Mr. Thomas claimed that the Communists had always gained strength by the electoral procedure although the final coupe may have been illegal. He cited the example of Czechoslovakia where the Communists had gained 38% of the votes and the highest ministerial and cabinet positions. He emphasized that the aim of the Communist party in the United States is to achieve a U. S. foreign policy which is unhostile to Russia. Finally he stated that Wallace and the Communists both have "Messianic complexes"—the former individual and the latter of their party doctrine. He foresaw future con-

flict within the Progressive party over this disparity.

Mr. Thomas has attended all the political conventions as a correspondent. "We face an almost incredibly difficult situation. What is absolutely necessary is to be able to stop Soviet aggression and yet avoid war. "Even if there can be a temporary solution of the 'cold war' there would still be lasting peace to win." He discussed his plan for socialization of vital industries and the compensation to owners for property rights which are considered legally valid by the socialists in general. He implied, however, that there is some disagreement on this issue and also the question of peacetime military conscription. Although the Socialist party advocates repeal of the present draft and universal military training program of the country he described the situation by saying there is considerable disagreement as to just when a state of emergency exists.

Farmer-Labor Party

One of the most vital questions uppermost in the minds of many people today is the question of the possibility of a Farmer-Labor party. To many people this represents the hope of a real representative party. Mr. Thomas expressed himself on this point, stating that we need prompt action, that is the formation of a large mass electoral party. It would be psychologically easier to form a new party rather than hope for the development of it from the present Socialist party. He claims an American antipathy to certain names and an unusual disparity between what they say they think and what they really believe. The latter is indicated of course by action. The Socialist party would not be reluctant to join a new party if it professed the same aims and appeared to be heading in the "right direction." (This is not intended as a pun as it was meant literally, not politically.) This might be possible even if it did not endorse Socialism to the same extent as the present Socialist party. Mr. Thomas cited the Canadian party, the CCF, as an example of a similar merger.

In a remark on the present situation in Berlin, Mr. Thomas inferred that the present crisis could have been avoided if Germany had not been divided up into zones but had been placed under an administrative trusteeship charged with operating the industries essential to the recovery of all Europe.

When asked in jest "what was his final message to the youth," Mr. Thomas replied with his typical dry and sharp humor, "I never think they're going to either heaven or hell by virtue of being young. Anyway it's a virtue that doesn't last!"

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DRYSDALE'S

Summer Vacations, Summer Not

What did you do this summer? We've been asking that question around campus, and have heard quite a few interesting experiences.

Eliner Hegemann worked as an assistant to the stage designer, Alvin Colt, in the John Drew Theatre, East Hampton, Long Island. That involved doing anything and everything to get the stage ready for the various productions which were put on at the rate of one each week. During the day, the crew would be painting sets, gathering props, working out sound effects, and doing all the many tasks which go into stage management. In the evening, the "show would go on"; the play on which the crew had been working the week before.

The pace was almost staggering except for the fact that there was such a feeling of group accord. The production, rather than the individual, was important.

Judith Kanin was at Lakeville, Conn. at one of the International Service Seminars sponsored by the American Friends Committee. There were about 30 people, mostly of student age who represented more than 15 countries.

The program at this seminar was, as at the other similar seminars, rather flexible. There were frequent visiting lecturers: Margaret Mead, Norman Thomas, Philip Jessup, Thomas Brockway, and many others. Discussions were held in the morning with the afternoon free; lectures and panel discussions were held in the evenings.

One of the boys from China, in evaluating the summer's experience said that, "It's easy to agree with people intellectually, but not emotionally. At the seminar, although there were many differences on the intellectual plane, the emotional ties were achieved to a great degree; and these are perhaps more important for cementing international relations."

Patsi Birsh spent the summer at the New York University-Connecticut College Summer School of the Dance which was directed by Martha Hill. There she studied technique and composition with Martha Graham, Jose Limon and Louis Horst. There were 130 students from all over the country, most of them were of college age, with some teachers from other colleges.

One idea prevailed: concert dance should not be limited to New York City. It is wanted and needed all over the country. Patsi met many young dancers who feel, as she does, that they would like to get together again as dancers to try to fill that need.

The summer's classes were culminated in the American Dance Festival; 12 performances by the Graham Company, the Limon Company, and the Dudley, Maslow-Bales Company.

Cynthia Lee sang for her summer at Tanglewood. She was in the large chorus of one-hundred-fifty voices directed by Robert Shaw and Hugh Ross, which performed major works such as, Brahms' German Requiem and Mahler's Second Symphony with the Boston Symphony at the annual Berkshire Music Festival. She was also in the special chorus of twenty-five voices which sang a Bach Cantata and the St. John Passion. The tempo for the summer was set the very first rehearsal when the chorus was given some music, worked on it for about forty minutes and performed it at the opening ceremonies that evening. The small chorus, a chorus which sang music of all periods, also worked on the principle that a few hours rehearsal is sufficient for a performance, and at Tanglewood that formula seemed to work. Of course, the concerts given at the two-week intervals by the small chorus, which was directed by student conductors, were not up to the standard of perfection achieved by the final concerts of the large and special choruses, but they were near enough to make each performance an exciting one.

Those Josh White Blue

(Continued from page 2)

Crow, does not seem to realize the invalidity of this kind of contrived "message."

Second Rate Blues Singer

When Josh White first came to New York his flashy guitar-playing, the curious breaks he manages with his voice, and his unusually direct sensuality made his naive audiences literally jump for joy. Today, although he still tries the same tricks, people no longer fall all over themselves. His carefully studied "effects" have begun to pall, and White is clearly recognizable for what he always has been, a second-rate blues singer who will try any device (including his hopped-up version of "One Meatball") to make an audience react favorably.

Josh White certainly has a unique place on the concert stage, and the reason is that he has practically nothing to offer an audience that goes to Town Hall to hear good music. It should be remarked that Josh White, Jr., forgot fewer words than he would have been allowed, but there are plenty of other seven-year-olds, just as cute, with much better voices. He did liven up the program, though.

Walter D. Lehrman

(This is the first of a series of articles written especially for the Beacon by a New York jazz enthusiast.)

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