

# THE BEACON

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## Dance Workshop Presents Variety of Material and Treatment

The Dance Workshop program on November 18th, 19th, and 20th presented an immensely varied range of source material and final treatment of it in dance terms. Material, treated and approached from a variety of levels, ranges from Salem witches to Gertrude Stein's fanciful poem to children's play men departing for war, and a woman struggling against the dominance of men and the rigid Gothic hierarchy. The wide range of subject matter and of dramatic and choreographic treatment in the Workshop produced a high and exciting evening's program, testifying well to the nature and variety of dance activity at Bennington.

### The World Is Round

"The World is Round" by Marcia Eastman succeeds moderately well as a complete unity although the choreographer was faced with the difficult job of combining dance movement, speaking, intervals of percussion and several small groups within the big group. That the world is round is discovered by a little girl Rose; the philosophical question of being also poses itself and is happily abandoned in a kind of joyous childlike way by Rose and the chorus of dancers.

### Aunt Rhody

"Aunt Rhody" does not succeed completely as total dance, but more as storytelling and dance-pantomime to the homey Burl Ives ballad.

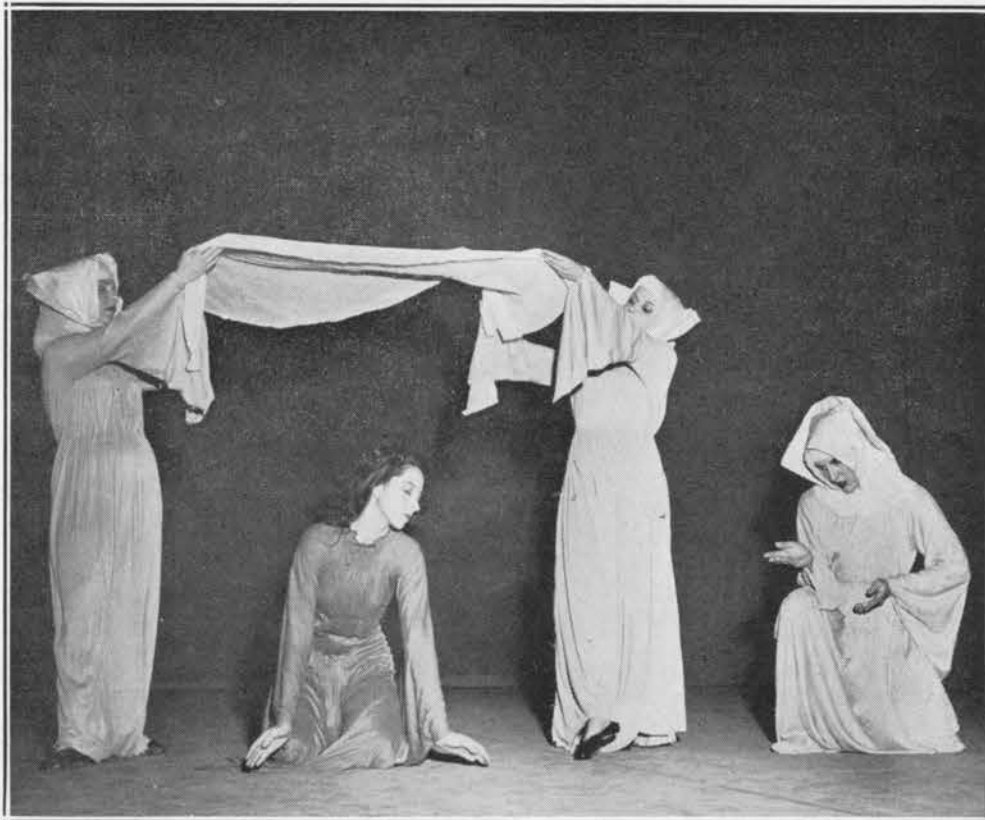
### Wits End

Joan DuBrow's "Wits End" is drollery set to some humorous Prokofieff music, recalling medieval court jesters, harlequins, and minstrels in spats. A cunning sly man matches wits with a proverbial brawny man and a brainy man. He outwits them, only to have them come back at him, regaining their stolen possessions and something of the other's virtues. The match of wits is clever with arm-churning movements, clenched fists and brisk, brushing walks and leaps.

### Eloise and Abelard

At the command of her lover a woman forsakes worldly passion for a life of spiritual devotion in Gail Greig's dance about the medieval nun Eloise. She

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## Chorus to Give Carnegie Concert Dec. 5th

The Bennington College Chorus will give a joint performance with the Dessoff Choirs in Carnegie Hall on December 5th at 5:45 PM. The program will consist of pieces from two centuries of religious music.

The Dessoff Choirs will perform works by Palestrina, Josquin, and Lassus. Louis Biancolli, music critic for the World Telegram, commented on a previous Dessoff performance: "The music was all fascinating, that of Palestrina was especially compelling in its concentrated cumulative intensity, and Mr. Boepple's choristers brought the right devotional spirit to it and, of course the right technical ability, which is no small feat in the many-laned thoroughfare of Palestrina."

The Bennington chorus will sing works by Kodaly, Levy, and Jolas. Betsy Jolas wrote her composition at Bennington in 1946 for the graduation ceremony of her class. Mr. Levy's Motet for double chorus was composed in 1948.

## "Political Parties and the 1948 Elections"

Oliver Garceau

"In contrast to what had been anticipated, the past election certainly has given us a lot to talk about", began Mr. Garceau at the political economy seminar, November 10. He opened his lecture with a discussion of the election in terms of methods and predictions of Louis Bean, author of "How to Predict Elections", who has been credited with producing the "rightest" answer in the pre-election speculations.

### Bean's Method

Mr. Bean proceeded on the basis of evaluating the election behavior of the nation by constructing an elaborate pattern of past voting behavior in the various states. He estimated their previous deviation from the "normal" voting behavior of the nation, and the degree of flexibility in comparison to other states, and thus he attempted to offer some sort of formula for judging the outcome of the election.

Mr. Garceau indicated that although Bean had been very close to the final

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## Dog Days at Bennington Are Over

Bennington College, famed for its liberal standards, has recently taken a conservative twist. The dog, man's best friend, is now banished from the community. Girls can have pet mice, turtles and lizards on campus, but the domesticated, refined dog is tabooed.

A week ago it was announced that dogs would not be tolerated in the college cooperative store, the focal point for nearly all activity. It was said that they created a disturbance by getting underfoot and by sniffing food in the store. Since when does one mind the antics of a playful pet, and why is it worse for a dog to sniff a well-wrapped candy bar than for a student to do all but eat it in trying to find its calorie content before she decides whether or not to buy it?

This week two more announcements were posted concerning pets being ousted from Jennings Hall. The announcement stated that loose fur made cleaning difficult and that several times furniture had been damaged. Everyone knows that any self-respecting (this point certainly cannot be disputed concerning college dogs—especially Bennington College dogs) dogs grow more fur in the fall and that spring is the season to worry about shedding hair. As for damage to furniture, the amount has been so small in comparison to that damage done by human carelessness, that it is unfair to mention one without the other.

Lastly, it was posted that dogs are to be kept out of dining rooms and kitchen.

This request is sensible. Waitresses, concentrating on spillable trays might trip over a dog and, through no fault of either party, be hurt. Also, those people who do not understand the whiffs, what-nots and how much involved in feeding a dog, might cause serious constitutional trouble to their new-found friends.

It is surprising that such anti-canine discrimination should be found at an institution like Bennington College. Anyone has a right to an education at this college as long as he can fill the entrance requirements, and, in the case of the animal, they are: 1. that he has a specific person to whom he is responsible, and 2. that he conduct himself as a free individual only in so far as he does not infringe on the rights of another individual.

## New School Exhibits Mr. Feeley's Paintings

From November 16th to November 30th the New School for Social Research in New York is presenting an exhibition of Mr. Feeley's paintings. The paintings being shown include "Combing a Child's Hair," loaned by Mr. and Mrs. Boepple, "Men Washing a Dog," "The Carver" loaned by Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Hyman, and "Still Life with a Dog."

## Here and There

Bennington was traditionally gay on dance week end. But this far, the campus seemed to abound with unusually chic parties. On Friday night Canfield House gave a large informal party before the hayride. At cocktail time on Saturday Stokes-Stanford under the guidance of Suzy Mosher and Janet Roosevelt served whiskey sours to about twenty-two guests. The Kilpat party was really quite lavish, for Dottie Miller and Barby Corey made a wonderful whiskey punch with pineapple, lemon and cherry juice and whole fresh strawberries. Their hors d'oeuvres were minced clam and cheese spreads flavored with onion juice. Between fifty and sixty guests attended this gathering.

## Engagement Announced

Leigh House had a formal party just before the dance, and Suzie Pierce announced her engagement at a Canfield stinger party just after the Octet Sing. Quite a few of Charlie's (that's Suzie's fiancé) friends and their dates came over from the Union College house party for the celebration.

## Heaven and Hell

The formal dance began at 10:00 and lasted until two o'clock in the morning. After having their hands stamped, the couples entered and walked DOWN into "Heaven". Amidst angels and clouds the orchestra played and a vocalist sang. Every now and then, we were warned not to lean against the wall and disturb the angels.

UPSTAIRS in "Hell" (the carriage barn lounge) there was beer and the devil.

The next morning a party was held in Swan living room and of course there was a milk punch party. "McCullough College" was the scene; about forty people drifted in between three and six P. M.

## Hallowe'en Parties

Both Canfield and Leigh observed Hallowe'en Sunday with costume parties complete with lighted pumpkins, orange and black streamers, dunking for apples, children's games and dancing. The Oc-

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## Drama Workshop

### Three One-Act Plays

Two comedies and one tragedy will be presented on the thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth of December. The tragedy is "The Love of Annunziata," taken from the Di Dinato novel, "Christ in Concrete." The plot concerns an Italian immigrant family; the focus is upon the husband-wife relationship.

One of the comedies, "Yes, Mr. King," was written by two of our faculty members, Allan and Brook Waring Lewis. Its main theme is the struggle and the temptations which the artist must face in trying to uphold his artistic standards. The last play is a comedy, "The Boor," by Chekov.

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## The Town and the College

It is of the utmost importance that there be friendly and cooperative relations between Bennington College and the nearby towns, for friendship and cooperation between them would work to the mutual advantage of both. However, it has come to be regarded as an established fact that relations between the college and the town of Bennington are not all that they might be. And we feel that the fault lies largely with the students, for they alone are responsible for their actions and for the effect which these actions have upon others.

We do not mean to imply that students deliberately try to create a bad impression, but we do think that they do not always display good sense and taste in their off-campus behavior. The townspeople can hardly be expected to have a very good opinion of students who charge their purchases in the local stores and then do not pay their bills. This situation has become so critical that several merchants have been forced to start legal proceedings in order to get their money, and some refuse credit to any college student.

And there are other less obvious but equally valid reasons for the widespread bad feeling against the college students. A taxi driver remarked recently to one of the students that he likes the college girls and likes to talk to them, but that they never seem to want to talk to him when they ride in his taxi. And an employee in one of the local nightspots has said that the college girls who come there with their dates are often noisy and rude and seem to have little regard for any of the other customers, much less for the employees.

It seems difficult for students to realize that their appearance as well as their conduct can create a poor impression upon the townspeople. Blue jeans are worn on campus for comfort rather than beauty and are accepted college costume, but when worn in town, they immediately mark their wearer as a student. Students would be much less conspicuous in town if they did not wear blue jeans or slacks. However, we are not suggesting that students should merely try to appear as inconspicuous as possible, for there is no denying that a college girl usually looks like a college girl, no matter how she is dressed. But we do believe that when students go off campus they should dress and behave in such a way that they could not be accused of showing either poor taste or bad manners. And we do think that if students would try to see themselves as the townspeople see them, they would discover what they can best do to improve relations between the town and the college.

## J. Parnell Thomas

O, here lies one Thomas, P. J.,  
Who's more to be censured than pitied,  
He didn't need facts  
To wield his sharp axe;  
Dishonest, disliked—dis-committed.

## c/o R. S. V. P.

### Letter Box

Fairbanks, Alaska  
Ladd Air Force Base  
November 1, 1948

Dear Girls:

We the undersigned Airmen, are stationed in the lonely wastes of far away Alaska. Mail is our only link with the outside world and we get very little of it.

We would appreciate it very much if any of you could find the time to write to us. We can assure each and every one who is kind enough to write that they will definitely get an answer. We have many interesting things to relate about this little known territory.

Our petition is a most unusual one but it is the American way of life. We feel quite sure that there are many girls who will enjoy corresponding with us. In the broad sense of the word, you might say that by writing to us you will be filling out your education to a certain extent. Information about a territory as big and as wealthy as Alaska, obtained by first hand reports is far greater than anything you might obtain from a book.

Our little friend at the top of the paper expresses all of our sentiments one hundred percent. (Picture of crying airman sitting on the North Pole). The only thing that may be added is that it's lonely and there is very little to do. Perhaps we are feeling just a little sorry for ourselves, but when you come down to it there is no one else who will. We firmly believe that it would be quite interesting to correspond with a number of girls back in the states.

Listed on the attached sheet are the names and addresses of a dozen or so of us that would be quite happy to answer any and all mail received. Opposite each name you will find his home address. By way of suggestion, you might pick the name of the persons living closest to your own homes. Please post this letter on the bulletin board or disseminate to all interested parties in some other way.

Nuff said for now. We will remain hopefully yours until we hear from you.

Sincerely yours,

Hq. 1930th AACs Squadron  
APO 731 c/o Postmaster  
Seattle, Wash.

Cpl. Ernest M. Andrews, AF 18 100  
882, Childress, Texas.  
Sgt. Roger H. Austin, AF 11 143 537  
North Troy, Vermont.  
Pvt. Charles J. Brennick, AF 14 238  
638, Summerville, Massachusetts.  
Sgt. Gilbert E. Bomkamp, AF 16 221  
945 Chicago, Illinois  
Cpl. Leon R. Chambless, AF 18 252  
599, Muleshoe, Texas.  
Sgt. Donald T. Dumont, AF 12 247  
292 Saratoga Springs, New York.

## Mrs. Stone's Antique Shop

Mrs. Stone's Antique Shop in her home at 324 School Street has become a favorite refuge for people who want to find lovely things for any occasion. She opened it in town 27 years ago, and since 1932 has enjoyed catering to the Bennington students, particularly last year's theater group.

### Life-time Interest

All of her life Mrs. Stone has been interested in this line of business. When she was about 12 or 14 years old, she started collecting antiques in her birthplace at Little Rock, Arkansas. Immediately upon arriving in Bennington, before the College had even opened, she established a shop which contains a little bit of everything—both old and new. The objects are bought from people in and around Bennington, who have had enough rarities in their attics and cellars to supply her ever since she opened.

### Specialization in Women's Costumes

Mrs. Stone specializes in old-fashioned costumes, of which she used to have a wonderful collection. But she also has such things as materials, muffs, gloves, china, glass, and furniture. Among her larger collections are 125 bonnets, which have ranged in size from the smallest baby's, 3½ inches across, to anybody's guess at the largest. They dated all the way from 1769. Combs, hand-made laces, over 100 handkerchiefs, black lace shawls, foreign fans, and old-fashioned petticoats have swelled her other collections.

### The Secret

She claims that her whole secret of success rests in the theory that you can place no set value on antiques. Their worth is intrinsic in what they mean to the purchaser, and what he and she are mutually willing to give and take. Therefore she sells for almost the same as she buys, and consequently keeps the same customers faithfully year after year.

### The Troubles

The increasing trouble with the an-

S/Sgt. Leon S. Jernigan, AF 14 237  
095, Wauchula, Florida.  
S/Sgt. Clifford S. Kussman AF 17 211  
081, Virgil, Kansas.  
Sgt. Ernest G. C. McCarthy, AF 15  
399 906, Defiance, Ohio.  
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Pfc. Arthur Twilling, AF 17 226 349,  
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Cpt. John W. Whiteside, AF 13 239  
821, Hilton Village, Virginia.  
Sgt. Johnny B. Young, AF 18 324 770,  
Lamesa, Texas.

Sample Mailing Address:

Sgt. Roger H. Austin  
1930th AACs Sq.  
APO 731, c/o Postmaster  
Seattle, Washington

## Now and Then

### A Bath in a Ballroom

C. B. deMille believes in things like bathtubs with ballroom settings, but the Walloomsac Inn practices what Mr. de Mille only preaches with his movies. The inn was built one hundred and eighty four years ago, and then its third floor was a ballroom without bathtubs. The men who built the inn, the Rev. Jediah Dewey, undoubtedly meant that the ballroom of the Dewey Tavern, the inn's name until the Civil War, should stay a conventional one, and it functioned long and well in its original capacity. In it General Ethan Allen met with General Stark to plan the attack on Ticonderoga. It was the scene of the "half hour tea" that was given for President Harrison's widow. The ladies of Bennington discovered that Mrs. Harrison was coming to Bennington only a half hour before she arrived; they rallied to the occasion and with the help of the ballroom the tea was a success. The Bennington Masons were formed within the walls of this versatile room, and not long ago, more than versatile, the old ballroom was divided and turned into rooms and adjoining baths for the guests of the Walloomsac Inn. The ballroom molding though, is still there adding its aus-

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tique business is that magazines and books have contained so much literature about the stupendous, but unappreciated value of strange old relics that they have spoiled the opportunities of buyers. People get it in their minds that the least old trinket is extravagantly precious.

Another unhappy occurrence is Mrs. Stone's not realizing their value until they are sold. Once she unwittingly sold a famous Lambour desk for a song—but this is not very common to so long-experienced an eye as hers.

### Other Pastimes

Mrs. Stone has also taken to oil painting. Although she does not know much about it, "it is a great pleasure" to her.

Still another avocation is sewing such articles as sachets and bridal hats. Of 50,000 hats entered in one of Tom Brennamen's Breakfast in Hollywood contests, 105 prizes were given out, and her own blue chiffon hat received one—which she supposed to be the 55th.

### Diminished Business

The last year Mrs. Stone has been very ill. Since she runs the shop alone, it has become too great a strain. Instead of giving it up altogether though, she was unhappily forced to cut down. Most of her large collections were sold away, but she still maintains the lessened stock and enjoys it as much as ever.

J. Wilson

## Origin of the Octet

The Bennington College Octet is one of the campus traditions, and those who have heard it sing at social gatherings or in the dining room may be interested in knowing a little about it and how it started. The Octet began in 1939 as a student trio which sang at informal gatherings. Its popularity was soon realized by Anne Whiteley, and under her direction it was quickly enlarged into an Octet. In 1942 Zoe Williams of the music faculty took over the leadership which in 1943 passed on to Pat Crocker.

### Present Leader Sally Whiteley

Present leader of the Octet is Sally Whiteley, younger sister of the original director, who directs the singing and does most of the arranging. The other members are Linda Borden, Suzanne Bunker, Dusty Hutton, Sally Pickells, Sue Pierce, Jane Roberts, and Pat Williams. The Octet sings at College parties and dances, has performed with the College orchestra and chorus, and has occasionally sung with the Williams College Octet.



THIRST FOR KNOWLEDGE



## Levy Gives Last College Concert

On November 11, Mr. Levy gave his last concert at Bennington. Next term he leaves to go to the University of Chicago. His program consisted of Beethoven's Appassionata Sonata, Debussy's Images, Schumann's Etudes Symphoniques, and Liszt's Annees De Pelerinage and the 14th Hungarian Rhapsody.

### The Appassionata

The Appassionata and the Waldstein culminate Beethoven's second period. Of the two, the first sonata demands a more skillful technique, however from the standpoint of interpretation it presents Beethoven at one of his simpler moments. In other words the intellectual implications are overshadowed by the "Weltschmerz": as the Appassionata disturbs the most easily stimulated region of mind. Throughout the piece, there is continual rhythmic reference to the heroic "victory theme" from the Fifth Symphony; and there are numerous impetuous modulations (particularly in the first movement) that are not prepared for by a transition. The second movement is far more reserved and biblical, even though its harmonies are principally triads in the tonic, dominant and subdominant. Now there is another surprise: instead of the expected Rondo finale, analysis proves that the last movement, being joined with the second, is one immense sonata. This catastrophic ending all but squeezes the turnip dry. It is one place that I feel the Appassionata almost breaks its own neck. (Another example is the finale of its brethren Symphony in C minor). Obviously this is a personal prejudice which has little effect upon the essentials of a masterpiece.

### Debussy's Images

The Images illustrate Debussy's special genius in generating melody from harmony. Reflets dans l'Eau, Homage a Rameau and l'Isle Joyeuse, in their exploring coloration seem to use the piano as an orchestral instrument. Nevertheless, I can not find in these musical "impressions", (particularly in the first and last) the usually attributed symbolism. The images are detached and individual. They live in their own subjective world which is small, yet beautiful. Following the tremendous and explosive Beethovenian universe these fragments seemed almost ludicrous. Appropriately to their nature they made no excuse, but spoke from their own remote world. This obliviousness probably saved the day, but I am still dubious of the linkage of the fragment and the whole.

### Etudes Symphoniques

The Twelve Etudes Symphoniques adhere to an important principle: "the music is the thing", not the ornamental trimming. In these provocative pieces Schumann has avoided the bravura of his age. This originally probably broke a trail for the Brahms' variations or themes by Handel, Haydn and Paganini. Often the subject of the Etudes is subdued by the interjection of new, more interesting material. (As I recall this was particularly true of the III and VI etudes). The worlds of experience that

## For the Christmas Shopper—Remember, Only 30 More Shopping Days

For those students who cannot get home or to any large city before Christmas, The Beacon has decided to install a weekly column to serve as a shopping guide. Bennington and Old Bennington have many shops in which one can find a gift suitable for any occasion or person.

### Perfume Buys

Starting with the indispensable "perfume market", Jessie Wood has a complete stock of Mary Chess toilet water and perfume. The bottles come in all sizes and the old favorites "Tapestry" and "Strategy" can be particularly recommended. Carroll's Drug Store is also well stocked in the often hard to get perfumes of Lucien Lelong.

### Gift Box Selections

The Gift Box, right next to the General Stark Theatre, has some charming jam or mustard pots. They come in a set of two and in chromium-china combination. Ideal for your housekeeping friends, they are priced at only \$7.50, relatively inexpensive for an article of this sort. If you are looking for leather traveling manicure sets, The Gift Box has some and they are perfectly stunning. They can be had in either calf or pigskin and they can't be praised enough, for they are worth every bit of their price of \$17.50.

the variations explore in their contrast is incredible, especially in regard to the overall structure which remains always as a unit. The closest kin to the Schumann was the Appassionata. Therefore I again question the intrusion of Debussy upon these more powerful and intellectual pieces of work. This pampering custom of giving the audience a lifesaver between courses seems ridiculous. I am not criticizing Debussy, who has firm roots in his own world, but rather the mistake of placing him in such an unfavorable position.

### Annees de Pelerinage

The Annees de Pelerinage (Years of Wandering) are a group of piano compositions, most of which bear descriptive titles. They are slight sketches, restless and emotional, and appear to derive their impressions from natural sights and sound. This statement is true of Pastorale, while Sposalizio, after Raphael's painting, attempts a musical illustration. The unfamiliarity made them interesting as curiosities, but nevertheless I felt a drop in the quality of music.

### Hungarian Rhapsody

Enjoyment of the last selection demands an inexhaustible sense of humor. In their origin Hungarian gypsy tunes may be very effective; but this rhapsodic transcription was totally inartistic in its blatant tone and ostentatious rhythm. In my estimation, James Huneker has the proper sentiment: "I wish that Liszt had never manufactured the Rhapsodies."

The audience was extremely enthusiastic about the entire program.

J. Spencer

Silk scarves by  
*Symphony*

Tranel Slips

*The Town Shop*  
Lingerie and Accessories  
444 Main Street

## In Review

### "Logbook for Grace"

(By Robert Cushman Murphy)

It is comparatively rare that one can lay down a book and feel totally satisfied with it. If you're looking for such an experience, "Logbook for Grace" is strongly recommended.

Never intended for publication, "Logbook for Grace" is the personal, non-technical account of a naturalist's trip to the edge of the Antarctic in a New Bedford whaling and sealing vessel, the "Daisy."

### Compared to Melville

It is well written and contains many passages on the brilliant and precise level of expression which is characteristic of Melville's best descriptive work. Yet "Logbook for Grace" contains an element which is absent from all of Melville. Mr. Murphy is humorous. The following passage exemplifies this:

"The Old Man has been poring over his Bible for at least two hours. He is rather full of pious instincts, and might be called religious but not churchly. All the sects familiar in the vicinity of New Bedford seem, for one reason or another, to have won his displeasure, but Quakers lead the field in his list of preferred funerals. The Friends, incidentally, have been famously successful whalers ever since the early days of Nantucket, and first among owners of whaleships, and it may be that Captain Cleveland has fallen afoul of some powerful rivalry during his long blubber-hunting career.

However, he has nothing but bitter words also for the Episcopalians, Congregationalists, and Baptist, et al.

I have known him just about six months, and this afternoon he finally popped the dread question, 'Mr. Murphy, what's your religion?'

'Well, Captain,' I responded, 'I'm a member of the Unitarian Church and—' but he cut me short with a comment that has smoothed all possible difficulties.

'Oh, I have great respect for the Unitarians. They don't believe a goddam thing and they live up to it every day in the week, Sundays included.'

### Description of Crew

In "Logbook for Grace" the growth of its author is clearly evident, both in relationship toward his wife, Grace, for whom the logbook was written and toward his work which occupies most of the waking hours of his voyage. Playing a large role in the author's growth was the ship's crew. For they who evoked some of the most human feelings from Mr. Murphy's pen, and it is in his dealings with them that the author reveals the insight and compassion that he holds for his fellow men. Witness the following passage.

"Ferleao, whom I now see daily, is going out like the last flickers from the wick of a whale-oil lamp. He seems completely listless and at peace. The tenderness and consideration of his shipmates is a revelation of man's innate mercy. They know that he has only days to live. Their role and responsibility are something apart from quarterdeck and cabin. They vie with one another, like nuns, to give comfort. They feed him, wash him with warm water from the galley, keep him clad in clean shirt and cotton trousers, and neither balk nor gag because of vomit, blood, or excrement.

It is easy to call men black, lazy, disolute, or any other name to which you choose to attach opprobrium. But stintiness is, nevertheless, where you find it, and charity shines in the peak between Daisy's bluff bows."

Because Mr. Murphy kept his eyes open to human as well as natural phenomena, his knowledge of human nature became microscopic in intensity, macroscopic in scope. For the foibles and profundities of the simple men of the "Daisy" are those of men the world over.

## "Un Carnet de Bal" Good, Not Great

"Un Carnet de Bal", which was chosen as the best motion picture in the world at the Venice Biennial Film Exposition in 1937, is not as good as all that. The story concerns a young and lonely widow who goes out to find the men who had been her partners at her first ball. Finding them either content or tragic, she puts illusions to rest and becomes wiser if not happier.

### Seven Stories in One

Actually "Un Carnet de Bal" is not one picture, but seven separate ones. Each in itself is excellent, especially the episodes featuring the great actors Harry Baur, Fernandel, and Raimu. Marie Bell as the widow, Francoise Rosay as the mad mother of one of the men, and Louis Jouvet and Eric Irvin as two of the lovers are all more than capable. In fact, every member of the cast is beyond criticism. The photography is good; the flashbacks of the ball are almost magnificent, as is the music that accompanies these scenes.

### Lack of Continuity Mars Film

The picture as a whole, however, is not as praiseworthy as its separate parts. It is disconnected and uneven, which may be blamed in part on the fact that the film was cut extensively. In fact, what was perhaps the best episode—the story of a run-down, epileptic doctor who was planning to murder his mistress—was omitted entirely.

But this was not the sole cause of the lack of continuity. Perhaps only a work of genius could contain seven separate but perfectly blended stories. "Un Carnet de Bal" is a pleasant picture with fine acting—but it is by no means a work of genius.

R. Brown

There is a strange but well-blended admixture of the candid sometimes self-conscious enthusiasm of youth and the balance insight of age to be found in Mr. Murphy's book. And all through out there is the element of his growth to be found in self-revelatory passages.

"Logbook for Grace" was written in 1912-13 when the world seemed a pleasant place. The book makes good fireside reading for those who are weary of prophecies of doom. It takes one on a poetic voyage, fancy free and challenging to the imagination.

Joyce Perry

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

*Bennington's  
Big Gift Shop*

is ready to serve you with hundreds of useful articles.

We have gift boxes for each merchandise to make it easier for you.

Be sure to see our Christmas gift stock.

**The E. L. NICHOLS Store**  
457-461 Main Street

The Food is Fine

at

*The Knotty Pine*



## Dance Workshop Presents Variety of Material and Treatment

(Continued from page 1)

conflicts with the placidity and off-balance stability of the Gothic nuns. Simple and subdued line, color, and movement, suggests the angular, yet fluid gesture of Gothic figures and intensifies the medieval atmosphere. Lying and twisting on the floor beneath the nun's veil and the large sharp movements of the novice, contrasted with the sedateness and calm of the nuns symbolizes the nature of this woman's struggle.

### Counter-Statement

"Counter-Statement," a solo by Helen Cappel is a dark black-and-brown thing with twisted distorted movements of limbs, startling falls, clubbed toes, limp arms, and violent changes in tempo. These changes are often uneasy and break down the unity of the piece, though this may contribute to a desired turbulent distraught feeling. The dancer's face is not seen through most of the dance until she at last turns to the audience, defiantly and assertively.

### In Time of Armament

"In Time of Armament" by Betty Anne Gillett is deeply conceived and is a full, relatively mature piece, both emotionally and artistically. It is a dance with an epic and combined archaic-modern feeling. A boy departs for war leaving his mother, sweetheart, and friends anguished. Lateral and somewhat formal movements by the chorus of women create an ominous atmosphere. The mother and son motifs are more fluid and comforting and the dance of the boy and his sweetheart is more intensely frantic. Some lovely motifs, such as the mother cradling the son, the whirling and sudden halting of the women, suspended kneelings and extensions, the unity and separateness of the movements of the dancers all within an organic whole, create great excitement. The large epic feeling is achieved and the whole is conceived with considerable and stirring economy. The music by Marcia Burr is straightforward and provocative and substantiates the dance aptly.

### Li'l Girl, Li'l Girl

Allegra Fuller's dance "Li'l Girl, Li'l Girl," slave children are playing games in a ritualistic manner. The strange uncomplex view of the lift of the savage is suggested. Birth, work, play, fighting, love, and death are proceeded to in sequence in a serious and almost fanatical way, characteristic of ritual dancing. The large group of dancers is handled simply and well, and succeeds in conveying a kind of haphazard, high-pitch confusion, again suggesting the primitive ritual. Parts of the dance are done in silence and parts to the Library of Congress records of Negro children's games.

### Search the Dark Kingdom

Bert Prensky's solo, "Search the Dark Kingdom", with piano and viola score by Marcia Burr presents contrasting and restrained frenzy in the darkness of a hollow place. The dancer has used some mundane and tickish movements in a very exciting and dynamic way. A kind of rediscovery of his legs, arms, hands, and back is suggested. Intensity of the frenzy ranges from a slow limp arm swinging to a rapid changing of several directions upon one spot with insect-like vibrations of the fingers and hands. Resolution of the search comes with the break at the climax of frenzy, a mad disjointed skipping around and around.

### Demoniac

A woman comes to believe accusations of witchcrafts brought against her and begins to think and behave as a witch in "Demoniac," a solo by Helene Ellis. The dancer suggests a spider-like, nocturnal, self-disparaging creature with curious

## Now and Then

(Continued from page 2)

tere yet gay touch to bathroom as well as bedroom on the entire third floor.

### And a Kitchen That Fed Captives

In the beginning there were twenty-five rooms, but now that the tavern has grown into an inn and a new wing has been added, there are fifty rooms. The kitchen has been moved up from the basement to the first floor. In the old kitchen, Mrs. Dewey and her daughter cooked the food fed to the Hessian and the British who were taken captive in the nearby battles. The stairway and the front door have not moved, however, except for the little settling to the ground that they may have done, and they are the same stairway and entry that Presidents Jefferson and Madison, Monroe and Hayes and Roosevelt used when they visited this inn, the oldest in Vermont. This entry incidentally has never been closed during the tourist season in its more than a century and a half of history.

### Bennington's Other Monument

Today the inn with its flagstone walk and its weathered grey dignity, stands as a monument to an exciting and important part of New England's history, and awaits its guests with its delightful surprise of bedrooms with their original slat doors, a parlor practically dwarfed by a vintage 1764 fireplace, and bathrooms that were once part of a great and magnificent ballroom.

diagonal crablike crawling and searching with toe and finger-tips. Very swift and violent rolling down the stage and some strong leaps recall a leaping and darting spider.

### So Long

"So Long," a duet by Patsi Birsh and Bert Prensky, captures the liquid suaveness and detached gaiety of the mood created in the Mezz Mezzrow record accompaniment. A boy and girl take casual leave after a less casual acquaintance. They dance together and separate, wistfully and romantically, enticingly combining a waltz and jazz atmosphere.

### Scored of the 20's

"Scored of the 20's" is a musical comedy escapade from the flapper era by Helene Ellis with four fripporous girls cutting capers in short, straight-cut dresses. Flopping shoulders, rolling eyes, boisterous striding around, and hip-waving smacking of the 20's to the tune of a cakewalk, as well as some good manipulations of the dancers in the stage space, make this a gay tapering off of the Workshop evening.

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## Here and There

(Continued from page 1)

tet sang at Canfield and Janie Roberts concocted a superb cider punch for the occasion.

On October 27 Jill Warburg gave a surprise party at Kilpat for her sister Felicia's twenty-first birthday. Suzy Peck was also surprised on November 16 when Canfield House appeared en masse in children's costumes to celebrate her birthday.

### Party for Bert

The Progressives gave a party in Franklin on Saturday night, November sixth, for Bert Prensky in appreciation of his marvelous production on election night.

Dewey is still tired from the Navy weekend when fourteen ensigns arrived from New London Sub Base, and consequently has given no recent parties. Marianne Byk and Judy Kanin, however, are keeping the house in the news for they have started an art school for faculty and town children. It meets on Wednesday afternoons from two to four in the nursery school. Jen Winans, a senior, is leaving at the end of the term to be married. She will complete her music project in non-residence and receive her degree in July, while Mary Heath hopes to graduate in December.

Booth House has planned many parties this term but somehow they just haven't gotten around to giving them. The house is not without glory though. Laura-Lee Whittier and Barbara Smith are graduating in December; it has a wonderful collection of French records; all members evacuated for the fire drill; and Booth was one of the few houses to subscribe in full and top its quota in the October Community Chest drive.

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## Salute to University of Arkansas

"For admitting a Negro girl student to the freshman class in its medical school—without segregation—and for doing away with the separation of its one Negro student from his fellows in the classrooms of the law school, the University of Arkansas rates a salute.

"No skies have fallen in Arkansas. No riots have occurred. Thus far no interracial marriages have been attempted. Instead, the students at the university, the many whites and the two Negroes, are going about their usual business, just as black and white students have done these many years at the University of Illinois, Ohio State, Kansas, Iowa and Michigan, to mention only a few.

"It should be noted, too, that Arkansas officials admitted Negro graduate and professional students without any fanfare and without having a lawsuit brought against the state institution. Thus the state stands as an example to its neighbor, Oklahoma, where state officials have dodged high court opinions for almost a year and have reluctantly admitted one Negro graduate student on a strictly segregated basis. It stands also as an example to North Carolina which, thruout the past twenty years, has been resting on its reputation as the "most advanced southern state" in education for Negroes."

The above editorial appeared in the November issue of *The Crisis*, the official organ of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. It will be of particular interest to the students, faculty, and staff of Bennington, for Mr. Lewis Webster Jones, a former president of Bennington, has been president of the University of Arkansas for the past two years.

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## Nursery School Stresses The Use of Freedom

The nursery school on the Bennington campus represents an attempt to approach child psychology from an entirely modern and progressive viewpoint. This approach is based primarily on the use of freedom and therefore coincides very definitely with the Bennington concept that there shall be as few rules as possible.

### Girls in Pre-School Child Course Make Up Staff

The twenty-nine children in the nursery school come from faculty families and families of North Bennington and surrounding towns. The ages of the children range from two to five years. They are divided into two groups of older and younger children.

### Self-Discipline and Confidence

Each of the twenty-five girls in the Pre-School Child Course spends two mornings a week at the nursery school, which runs from ten to twelve o'clock every weekday morning. The students actually become the staff of the school under the direction and teaching of Mrs. Hirsch and Mrs. Romero. An unusual advantage not found in other schools is that Freshmen as well as upper classmen may participate.

### Aim of School

The most important aim of the nursery school is to help the children acquire self-discipline and confidence. The girls try to help the children gain these through the use of freedom. The children are not forced to do a certain thing, but are taught to do it voluntarily. By suggestion and direction of their attention to possibilities about them, healthy activity becomes synonymous with voluntary action. Therefore the child must be given time to

understand that responding means enjoying.

### Play Imagination

The only routine is that which is necessary to keep organization. This consists of a time for play, work, refreshment, and rest. The children work and play in groups, but each may be doing something entirely different. All different kinds of materials are there for the children to use, and thus they are encouraged to use their imagination constructively. Workable materials like clay, sand, and paint are provided instead of ready-made toys which quickly become unexciting. In this way they may discover their own interests and should become able to take care of themselves when there is no grown-up nearby to depend on.

### Children Feel Responsible for Equipment

When the children realize that the school is their school, they learn to become responsible in such ways as taking care of equipment and putting it away.

The girls are taught that a child does something wrong or harmful because he has a particular need. With this in mind, they try to get at the source of the child's wrong-doing by interpreting the reason behind it. Then he can be helped toward what he really wants, and thus diverted from doing wrong.

It is particularly interesting to note the fact that no fence surrounds the nursery grounds. The idea of this is that the children will not feel shut in. Therefore, the children should have no desire to run away, and feeling completely free, are happy to stay there.

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### "Political Parties and the 1948 Elections"

(Continued from page 1)

results, he was not always correct in his gauging what pattern the individual states should form in this election. There were significant deviations from the expected in all states, which might raise a question as to the validity of what might be called the cycle-deviation theory.

However, Mr. Garceau pointed out several factors which might not have been considered as potentially influential as they turned out to be. First, although political cycles are never alike as to duration, there was strong feeling that the "Republican's turn" had merely been postponed because of the war. It is quite likely that the swing of the cycle to the Republicans had been swallowed up during the war.

**Change in Location of Dem. Vote**

One factor which is more significant in its long range implications is that there appears to have been a change in the location of the Democratic strength which now is more evenly spread in large states. That could be attributed to the fact that during the war years, there was a tremendous increase in the industrialization of formerly rural areas, which were traditionally Republican territory. Thus, together with the direct self-conscious use of the trade union votes, which can be counted only as Democratic, this underestimated trend towards urbanization produced an extra Democratic majority.

Furthermore, if two-thirds of the vote cast for the Progressive party were to be counted in the Democratic column, there would have been a swing to the Democrats in enough states to give them at least 74 more electoral votes.

Therefore, the Democratic party might be viewed as in the position of having a "surplus" of about 75, which would obviate the necessity for clinging to the Solid South.

**Third Party Influences**

One of the most provocative pre-election questions was what effect the double split in the Democratic ranks would have on the national vote. However, although the existence of the Progressives threw the electoral votes of states such as Michigan and New York into the Republican column, and the States Rights party polled 39 electoral votes in the old Democratic stronghold of the South, the electoral results were not significantly altered. When viewed in historical perspective, as third parties go, Wallace's Progressives proved a feeble effort as a serious "new party".

**Position of the Republican Party**

From the point of view of the Republicans, they have been and will be out of power for at least 22 years. This eclipse is not unprecedented, but suggests the kind of thing which operated against the Democrats in the post-Civil War period, only now, unemployment can be considered as the "bloody shirt". It might be possible that if the Republican party finds it impossible to live down the reputation of conservatism, there might be an attempt to join with the South, which is no longer essential to Democratic Party victory. However, aside from the fact that the Southern Democrats show no inclination towards leaving the party permanently, there would be further difficulties, since then a class party would be imposed on a sectional party.

**Difficulties in Realignment**

Mr. Garceau apparently felt that the Democratic Party would remain the more liberal party unless, under the strain of a severe depression, or because of a war during which severe domestic dislocations were sustained, the Democratic Party would be faced with unmanageable social problems. A challenge from the left would result, and the Democrats would then be considered as the status-quo party. Also,

### Katherine A. White to Do Free-Lance Photography in Italy

**To Sail December 15**

Katherine A. White will sail December 15 with her mother and a friend for Cherbourg and Paris, the first stop in a trip to Italy. Katherine will do free lance photography in Italy until March 9 when she will return to New York.

**Will Contribute to Reader's Digest**

The *Reader's Digest* has offered to pay Katherine \$100 for each picture it uses on the cover of its Italian edition. Since the magazine is primarily interested in pictures of people, it is providing Katherine with credentials permitting entry to any factory in Italy. However, the *Digest* has cautioned her that it wants mostly pictures of healthy looking people. Presumably it wants to give the Marshall Plan some propaganda.

**Hopes to Study Under Rosselini**

Katherine will live in Rome with her mother and a friend. She has an introduction to Rosselini, the photographer of "Open City" and "Sciuscia", who will be in Rome during the winter. Katherine hopes that this introduction will lead to her studying photography under Rosselini. She will have an opportunity to see a great deal of Italy, for photographing scenes in factories for the *Reader's Digest* will involve travelling. She has taken up Italian to help her on these trips, and hopes to reach a degree of fluency before leaving.

**To Continue Work for Reader's Digest on Return**

When Katherine returns to Bennington she plans to continue contributing to the *Reader's Digest*.

since the newly-formed labor vote can be manipulated only with difficulty, it probably could only be moved from Democratic ranks by the formation of a new left party which might be founded on a class system.

However, there are huge vested interests in professional politicians who are not anxious to change "the rules of the game" to parties of class controversy, rather than of sectionalism and personality. Moreover, even if parties were to become more distinct, there is no way to discipline party members to carry out this possibly more coherent policy, especially since elections are not called on matters of party policy, but which are regularly scheduled. Therefore, it might be concluded, that this character of the parties is vested in our Constitutional system itself.

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