

Annual Report of the Recreation Council

The purpose of the Recreation Council is "to provide a fuller and more rounded social life for every member of the community." There are twelve members, each representing the house from which she is elected. It is divided into three committees now called the Entertainment, Dance and Athletic Committees.

The Recreation Council came into office faced with a cash deficit of \$72.00 and a small budget deficit. These are both repaid, and there is now a cash bonus of \$9.90 and a budget surplus of approximately \$30.00. This was accomplished in many ways. Several innovations were made in the effort to raise this money. Last Spring the Council sponsored a Dance Contest, a bridge tournament and Sunday evening suppers in the houses. Though entertaining these proved insufficient sources of income so last Fall season tickets were sold at \$1.00 a piece as an emergency measure. These included the informal dance, Barn dance, Jazz concert, with free beer, the Information Please and Amateur contest. The net cost for these entertainments paid for separately, amounted to \$1.15. Approximately 250 tickets were sold and all the events were received enthusiastically. After the deficit and the cost of these parties were deducted \$75.00 remained. This was used in the Formal Dance, which was the first Formal Dance in the past few years to result in a profit.

The report of the Entertainment Committee is as follows: During the past year the Entertainment Committee sponsored Sunday evening Beethoven Sonata concerts played by Mr. DeGray. These were very popular, judging from the attendance, and it is hoped that they will be continued this spring. Music was broadcast from the balcony of the Commons and as usual was much in demand. The Entertainment Committee took charge of the programs under the Season tickets, except for the dances. They were such a success that it is suggested they be continued by budgeting them with the money supplied by the college. For next year the Entertainment Committee has two further suggestions (1) Faculty-student teas. There are so few opportunities for faculty and students to get together on a social basis that this was suggested as a possible solution. (2) A non-drama drama workshop with music supplied by non music majors. So far, there has been great enthusiasm but few participants.

The report of the Dance Committee is as follows:

The Dance Committee organized six dances last year, two Formals, two Informals and two Barn dances. The Spring Formal resulted in a small deficit which is now repaid. The Fall Formal resulted in a surplus of \$9.90. This was done in spite of a small attendance partly because of the \$75.00 from the season tickets and also because of several drastic changes which were made in planning the expenses. A detailed report is in the yearly report of this Committee. Both Informals paid for themselves. The Barn dance last Fall was held in the barn at Fairview. A local caller provided the music and it was a success both socially and financially.

Next I should like to give the annual report of the Athletic Committee. The Athletic Committee sponsored bus trips to Bromley every weekend when there was snow, last winter, if there were enough girls to fill the bus. Otherwise arrangements were made to send them in private cars, paying

the owners ^{1/2} a mile. Tennis lessons were given by Mr. Gill. They were much in demand and every lesson was taken. A beginners class in golf was held for the first time and proved itself valuable. Two baseball games were played last Spring with Putnoy and girls' team from Bennington. Hockey was played two days a week last Fall. There were enough recruits for two full teams each Wednesday but on other days there were seldom enough for one team. There were games with Skidmore and Putnoy with teas afterward. A new riding stable has been started in the barn at Overlea by Mr. Durkee. Several hay rides were taken and he has offered facilities for ski-joring. It is suggested that a sub-committee be formed to plan hay rides, paper chases, picnics, etc. Two horse shoe courts were built beside the Barn. These were used a great deal by the staff, but not by the students, and it is hoped that a tournament this Spring will stimulate interest. There was one organized hike last Fall up part of the long trail in Shaftsbury lead by Mr. and Mrs. Whittinghill. This was popular enough to warrant another this Spring. There is still the problem of unclaimed bicycles unsolved. The Council planned to auction them, the proceeds going to the scholarship fund, but it was postponed until this Spring in order to give adequate notice to the possible owners.

One of the important jobs the Recreation Council had this year was planning the Recreation House at Fairview. Jane Stilwell drew up tentative plans for it last Spring, and this Fall Mr. Van de Gracht came up to discuss them with us. After some changes were made they were submitted to the board of trustees and were approved. Four students submitted models for murals for the proposed lounge. They were exhibited for one week and voted on by the community. The model selected will be painted this Spring. There will be one large room for badminton which can also be used for dances and in summer for the School of the Arts. There will be a branch of the Cooperative Store and a lounge. It is hoped that in subsequent years more equipment will be supplied by the College, card rooms will be built, and that it will be used continuously.

This has been a successful year largely because of the splendid cooperation within the Council and the excellent jobs done by the heads of the sub-committees.

Respectfully submitted,

Minnette Hunsikor, Chairman

Report of the Meetings Committee

(Feb. to Dec., 1939)

This year we were faced with the problem of defining exactly what was the function of the Meetings Committee. The problem was broader than that; it was a question of not only defining the function but to make the Committee itself function so that it provided a form of entertainment for the community.

Just what the Meetings Committee was meant to accomplish was shrouded in misunderstanding. It was originally created to provide for intellectual recreation. In the Recreation Council there were committees representing social and athletic activities so it seemed only fitting to have a committee attending to intellectual recreation. Other people conceived of the Committee as a clearing house or co-ordinator of student meetings. In the fall term of this year, the only way we could make any order or policy defining the jurisdiction of the Meetings Committee so that it did not overlap onto other organizations, was to consider it as being organized on a time basis. At that time the Science Division had one day of the week set aside for meetings, the Music Division had another and so on. Sunday was the day we reserved for recreation of an intellectual sort. Examples of such programs were the Sunday Beethoven Concerts and the talks on the subject of religion that were sponsored by last year's Committee. More often the Meetings Committee simply sponsored activities which were taken care of by no other organization.

Most of these conceptions concerning the function of the Meetings Committee simply are not practical. The idea of having all types of recreation, athletic, social and intellectual taken care of by a student council is a good one, but intellectual recreation is already most adequately provided for by the present set up of committees in the College. The General Meetings Committee sponsors all the afternoon and evening lectures. What this committee does not sponsor is taken care of by the Divisions. Student panel discussions and current events meetings, once supposedly under the jurisdiction of the Meetings Committee are now taken care of by the Social Studies Division of the E.P.C. and the A.S.U. To provide any more programs of an intellectual nature would be to over burden the schedule.

The idea of having the Committee a clearing house for student meetings is also no longer practical. All College meetings are scheduled by the General Meetings Committee. This Committee is organized to plan meetings and to interpret the demands of the College community. This General Meetings Committee is composed further of a student as well as faculty members. If the Committee were interested in canvassing student opinion, they would find the entire Recreation Council or the Student Council more effective for that purpose than just the Meetings Committee.

Since the previous conceptions of the function of the Meetings Committee do not apply to date we have redefined the jurisdiction of the Committee as follows:

1. Entertainment which is not necessarily intellectual but rather in the nature of "fun" programs.
2. Broadcasting music from the veranda after meals.
3. Supplying publicity for the General Meetings programs, such as making posters and organizing bus trips.

The Meetings Committee's main function, then, is to provide light entertainment. Its activities do not overlap or duplicate the other Committee's activities since it provides entertainment to the community as a whole in contrast to the Social Committee which supplies entertainment centered mainly around out-of-town guests, in contrast to the Divisions whose programs center around each division, and finally, in contrast to the General Meetings Committee which provides the evening and afternoon programs of an academic nature.

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Specific Activities of the Committee Accomplished during the Year

1. Sunday Evening Beethoven Sonata Concerts played by Julian De Gray.

Mr. De Gray played all 32 sonatas. The concerts lasted nine weeks and were most successful judging by the attendance which filled the Booth living room to capacity to the very last of the concerts.

2. Broadcasting of music from the veranda after lunch.

This activity seems to be a popular one as there are always demands for it from the students in the spring and in the early fall.

3. Organizing trips to the movies.

We placed a paper on the bulletin board every week-end so that those who wanted to go to the movies might get together.

4. Four activities were made possible through the "season ticket fund" that was created this year and paid for by the community. While this fund was raised by the Social Committee, the Meetings Committee sponsored four of the activities. These programs were a great success, so much so that in the future such entertainment will constitute the bulk of the activities of the Committee. They were;

- a. The Amateur Contest.
- b. The Information Please Contest.
- c. The Jazz Concert.
- d. Beer party. (Given after the Jazz Concert with one free beer for anyone who had a "season ticket!")

Organization of the Committee

The Committee consists of three members from the Recreation Council and one faculty member. The Meetings Committee was the only committee to have a faculty member always present at meetings. This practice is highly recommended as we have needed our faculty member constantly for advice and for contacts among the faculty.

It is also recommended that the committee be kept small. More than three members make it less efficient.

The subject of the Committee's organization is not entirely solved. There is no question but that the present activities of the Meetings Committee involve a full load of work for the committee members. While those "fun" programs take only an hour or two on the stage, they involve weeks of preparation. As a solution to this problem, amalgamation with the Social Committee was suggested, but that seems highly inadvisable since the activities of the two committees are so different and since it is better to decentralize the activities of the Council, rather than having more and more work directed by one person.

Name of the Committee

It is recommended that the name of Meetings Committee be changed to Entertainment Committee. While the name suggested is by no means entirely satisfactory, it is at least less ambiguous than the former one.

Financial Status

The activities of the Committee were originally financed by the College. Due to the "season ticket" created this year, four of the Meetings Committee's activities were paid out of that fund. However, since these activities promote group spirit and further cost so little, we recommend that the Committee's activities be supported by the College in the future. If these activities such as Amateur Contests are not paid for out of the College fund, they would have to be paid for at the door or in season ticket form by the community over and above the regular dues paid to the Student Government.

Proposals for Activity Next Year

1. Faculty student teas. There are so few opportunities for faculty and students to get together on a social basis, that it was suggested that there be a series of teas. Only a portion of the student body would be asked to each tea so that the teas could be kept small and informal.

2. Amateur Dramatics program. Only people who do not major in dramatics will participate in this program. It could involve not only sketches and impersonations, etc., but also some music.

3. Quiz programs. Several kinds of Quiz programs are possible. For instance, spelling bees and programs like Professor Quiz.

If entertainment of the nature of the Information Please Program is undertaken again, it is suggested that the audience be included some way in the contest. For example, if the group which is contesting cannot answer a question, it can be thrown to the audience.

4. Jazz Concert. Variations on the Jazz Concert are also possible. The concert might be converted into a popular song session in which the audience could join in. It could be a Pops concert or a concert at which food is served during the intermission. To make the event important and to insure a large attendance, it should be given in the Theatre.

5. Amateur Contests. This program is always so successful that it has a tendency to be overworked. We recommend that it not be revived for a semester or two.

There are endless varieties of entertainment that this Committee can sponsor. Some examples: Dance or Jitter-bug contests; faculty wives' music evening (many faculty wives play instruments); a "Seeing Eye" program; a bonfire party with food, guitar playing and singing; Bingo games in the theatre; an employees music evening (several of the employees in the kitchen play instruments); Tea on the green in warm weather, etc.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Winter

- a. Informal dance (\$.50 per person without ticket)
- b. Barn dance (\$.35 " " " ")
- c. Beer party after Jazz Concert (\$.10 per etc.)
- d. Information Please Contest (\$.10 per etc.)
- e. Amateur Contest (\$.10 per etc.)

We sold approximately 260 Season tickets. All the events were very well attended. The decorations for the Informal dance were circus animals.

After all the events were over we had a balance of about \$75.00 to help us with the Formal Dance.

II. Formal Dance - December 16th.

Hours - 10:30 to 2:00

Decorations - Christmas greens

Food - Sandwiches, coffee, and milk

Business - Tickets were \$2.00 per couple; \$.65 per stag.

In come: \$153.85 plus \$51.32 from season tickets Expenses: \$187.05

Surplus: \$9.90 (after taking out \$8.22
for victrola needles and
miscellaneous expenses)

C. Miscellaneous

I. To cut down expenses we

1. Ordered food and labor from Miss Foresman at the rate of \$.25 per person (i.e. \$50.00 per 200) instead of the old rate of \$.27 per person.
2. Had no dance tickets as people forgot them and they were unnecessary expenses. We used complete door lists instead.
3. Set \$100.00 as a maximum for the Formal Dance Orchestra and \$50.00 for the Informal. I found that almost any orchestra would meet our terms if we were set in price. (The Continental Orchestra Corporation furnished us with both our Formal Dance orchestras, and we could not have done better.)
4. We had two girls from the College for hat check girls for \$1.50 each, the evening. This saved us a good bit on Mr. Tschorn's bill.

II. Suggestions and statements for the new Committee.

1. It was decided that the Social Committee would now be the Dance Committee, and do nothing but the dances (Barn, Informal, Formal) each term since the other amusements will be handled by the Meetings Committee. (Who helped us this Fall by carrying out our plans for two entertainments.)
2. The Committee chairman should plan a budget for each term and stick to it.
3. The first job of the new Committee will be to elect nine members to the committee from the nine houses not already represented on the Dance Committee by the Recreation Council members. Care should be taken in electing the members to think of the various needs of the committee (such as Art people for the decorations).
4. We found this year that the amusements which most appealed to the community were the things which were actually quite simple to plan for. This applied to orchestras, decorations, and food for dances as well as small entertainments.
5. It was found to be better to stamp everyone at the dances since the boys were able to cut the blue ribbons in half and get in free.

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret Brush

Report of the Athletic Committee

1939

Spring Sports

Skiing. Last winter the bus went to Bromley every weekend when there was snow and enough people signed up to fill it. If only two or three people signed, arrangements were made to have them go in private cars. This was done by the offering of $1\frac{1}{2}$ cents a mile to owners of private cars through the bill passed last spring.

One ski race was attended in Woodford and an effort should be made this year to get people transported to as many races as possible.

Suggestions: That this year the bus and truck be sent to Woodford instead of Bromley as the cost per trip is tremendously less and the skiing as good.

Tennis. The courts were dry and lessons started on May 9th. A chart for signing of courts was put up every morning leaving court 4 free from 2-6 on weekdays for lessons. These were given to two people every half hour, having had them sign up at the beginning of each week. In order that the demand for lessons be filled a girl could sign up for only one a week unless there were empty places in the morning for that afternoon, in which case she could sign again. This plan worked out very well and should be continued.

There was a tennis tournament held but it was started rather late for the best results. The best plan is to start it early enough so that two sets can be played by each person.

Suggestions: A new bang board is vitally needed opposite the present one. This should be built as soon as possible.

We have discussed with Mr. Leigh about getting Mr. Paul Harding from Brattleboro to be the pro this year, and it may be possible. He is said to be a superior teacher to Mr. Gill whom we have had in the past. Florence Booker knows the details of this.

Golf. Gold lessons also started on May 9th, being given from 3:00-6:00, Monday through Thursday by Mr. Whyte of the Mt. Anthony Golf Club. A beginners class was held for the first time, an hour every afternoon. This was popular and should be continued. The other half hour lessons would have been for two people at a time but often the demand was so small that girls had single ones.

Suggestions: Golf needs more advertising to make the lessons more popular. As we are allowed to use the Mt. Anthony links why not have a golf tournament at the start of the season?

Baseball. Two games were played last spring, with Putney school and a girls' team from Bennington. They wore a great deal of fun and even if no one does practice baseball as an organized sport, I think the games should continue.

Fall Sports

Hockey. Hockey was played regularly two days a week until Thanksgiving. On Wednesday there were usually two full teams although on any other day we tried, it was impossible to get enough people to play. This situation may be better next year as it was this year's freshman class that made up the numbers, and we hope will continue to play next year.

Frances Pierce coached us as in other years and was excellent.

We had games with both Skidmore and Putney, with tea following. These are great fun and should certainly be kept up. It would be a good idea to go to Putney for the next game as we have never been there.

Suggestions: There is a desperate need of new sticks. There is money being passed on to next year's committee and part of it should be spent, if possible, on equipment for hockey.

Riding. Mr. Durkee has started a stable in the barn at Overlea Inn. He boarded three horses this fall and had six saddle horses for hire. He will provide transportation to the stable and charges \$1.25 a ride if a book or 5 or 10 tickets is bought; otherwise, \$1.50.

Several hayrides have been taken, and when there is snow he has a sleigh available and has offered ski-joring.

This field of sport needs very definite organization if it is going to be made a paying concern for Mr. Durkee. Breakfast rides, hayrides, and picnics, etc. must be put through and so get more people to ride. This is one sport where a subcommittee of really interested people is a necessity. Otherwise it is too much of a job for one person to do well. The plan of having a club has been suggested. This is opposed to the Bennington ideals but may be the solution to this very important problem. Every college should have a place near by that gives an opportunity for riding, and this seems ideal if we can help make it pay.

Minor Sports

Horse-shoes. Two horse-shoe courts have been built on one side of the barn. The shoes are kept in the night-watchman's house. These were not used by the students to any great extent last fall, but it is hoped that interest will come up in the spring, perhaps a tournament would help. In any case, they are of definite use to the staff of the College.

Hiking. There was one organized hike this fall, up part of the Long Trail in Shaftsbury. About 12 people went, led by Mr. Whittinghill. As it was a great success several more should be held on week-ends this term.

Ping-Pong. The ping-pong table is going to be moved to the Recreation Barn and new equipment will have to be bought for it then. There is also going to be a billiards table there.

Bowling. The "bowling on the green" equipment has not been used very much. The best place for it seems to be by the stone wall. The set is in very good condition and an effort to get people to use it should be made.

Fencing. About six people in the College are really serious about learning to fence. Ted Glass was going to teach it, but found this term that he would not have the time. Chandler Cowles has volunteered, and it will probably take place on Wednesday afternoons at the Recreation Building.

New Policies

New policies started this year were:

1. The payment of $1\frac{1}{2}\%$ per mile as noted above for the carrying of people who have signed for transportation but are not enough in numbers to warrant the bus or beach-wagone.
2. Unmarked and unclaimed bicycles and skis left in Bingham basement for over a year may be sold at a rummage sale in the spring.

This is an outline of the work done by the Athletic Committee of the Recreation Council during the past year. All the small details which would be of no interest to the general community are in the Athletic notebook which will be passed on to the new committee. It is strongly urged that a complete notebook be kept in order that there be an easily accessible record of what has been done in past years.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Hedge