

# The Bennington Weekly

VOL. 2—NO. 5

Friday, October 5, 1951

10 Cents

## 500 N. S. A. Delegates Condemn McCarthyism

Madison, Wisconsin—More than 500 delegates from over 200 colleges and universities voiced their opinions on everything from "mccarthyism" to a new world union of students at the fourth National Student Congress held at the University of Minnesota, August 20-29.

A 220-48 vote by the delegates passed a resolution condemning the technique of "mccarthyism" which the groups said was "characterized by reliance upon legislative immunity, guilt-by-association, and unproven scattershot charges." The resolution charged that the technique is "being employed by members of both major political parties."

The congress took two steps against discrimination on the college campus when it asked its college affiliates to set a five-year time limit for the elimination of discriminatory fraternity and sorority clauses, and to establish a national sub-committee to exchange information regarding discrimination and segregation. Headquarters for the sub-committee will be at the University of Miami. The group will compile data on official university policies and state laws and report to the next congress.

The delegates representing 670,000 college students, after a week's work formulating their resolutions, voted:

1. For a new student Bill of Rights, upholding the principles of student government and guaranteeing qualified students the right to an education.

### UMT Passed

2. After heated debate, the delegates passed a resolution, 138-103, in favor of Universal Military Training at this time. A minority report against UMT was also filed.

3. By an overwhelming majority voted to re-affirm NSA's stand on academic freedom, urging that no teacher be dismissed without being made aware of the causes and without being given the opportunity to defend himself.

4. Urged that college athletics "be returned to the students." And, in the same resolution, the group placed the blame for the recent athletic scandals on "the corrupt atmosphere surrounding college athletics," demanding that "intercollegiate sports be both de-commercialized and de-emphasized."

5. Approved the continuation of the Student Mutual Assistance Program, a project which was developed at the Stockholm meeting of representatives of 19 national student unions.

### National Structure Reorganized

6. Reorganized the structure of the association by centralizing authority in the president, establishing another vice president, and a National Interim Committee to determine policy between National Executive Committee meetings.

Harold Stassen, President of the University of Pennsylvania, keyed the Congress. Stassen reported on the Berlin Youth Festival, from which he had just returned. He emphasized the need for a strong, active student group in the United States, and predicted that such a group would help prevent any major world conflict in the coming years.

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## Free Europe University In Exile Opens Nov. '51

November, 1951, the Free Europe University in Exile will begin its first academic year with a student body composed of more than 100 undergraduates from the Eastern European countries now behind the Iron Curtain.

The purpose of the university is to provide a study center for young people of both sexes, without distinction as to race or faith who find themselves exiled from their countries of origin. Since they are not citizens of their newly adopted countries they are in need of special assistance in order to obtain the educational facilities to which their previous academic experience and their manifest interest in the continuation of their studies appear, in the judgment of the Awards Committee, to entitle them. The purpose of this plan is not simply to continue the general education of the recipients. A more intensive purpose is to equip them for future leadership in their native lands by providing for them the same type of instruction in the national cultural heritage they would have received in school at home, had the national life not been so rudely interrupted.

The school bids welcome to those young exiles who feel that they can qualify for the scholarships which are to be awarded.

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## Mr. Boepple Will Direct "King David" Oratorio

"King David", by Arthur Honegger will be performed by the Bennington Community Chorus and Orchestra, Mr. Boepple conducting, on Sunday afternoon, December 9th in the Bennington Armory. Originally a play by Rene Morax, with incidental music by Honegger, the composer has since revised his score for presentation in oratorio form. Mr. Boepple is intimately familiar with this work, having been chosen to conduct its premier in Mezieres, Switzerland in 1921. Since that time he has conducted many performances of the oratorio by various musical organizations in this country.

## New Drama Student, Alan Levitt, Arrives

Alan J. Levitt, a new drama student, is replacing Sidney Kay who left college last week. Mr. Levitt is arriving from Boston, where he lives, some time this week-end. Mr. Levitt has attended the American Theatre Wing and Emerson College, where he directed several productions. His theatrical work during the war includes touring with Mickey Rooney's troupe and also with that of Joe Pevney's, under the sponsorship of Joshua Logan.

In addition to acting, Mr. Levitt also writes. He produced and directed, in Annapolis, Maryland, The Tercentenary Pageant. He did two more pageants, one in Carlisle, Penn., and one in New Britain, Conn.

Mr. Levitt has also produced and directed shows in such night clubs as the Latin Quarter in New York.

## Freshman Drama Group Presents "Peace"

John Holabird and the freshman drama group are presenting "Peace" on Friday, October 12, at eight o'clock p. m. The play will take place on the lawn in front of Commons. The Bennington band will accompany the presentation.

"Peace" is a comedy by Aristophanes. In the Fifth Century B. C. it was awarded second place at the Great Dionysian Festival. The play is a satire on Greek man and Greek gods. Trygaeus, an Athenian citizen, rides a dung-beetle to Olympus in search of the Goddess, Peace. His encounter with Hermes exposes the human element in the deity. The Greek Chorus, composed of Spartans, Athenians, Boetians, and Megarians sung the praise of the author in the customary condition of Argos.

Refreshments will be served at the conclusion of the play.

## Committees Will Promote Unity In Public Relations

### "Blue Angel" Will Be Shown Sat.

The *Blue Angel*, the movie which brought stardom to Marlene Dietrich, will be shown Saturday night in the college theatre. An outstanding movie of the early "Thirties" technically as well as by virtue of the outstanding acting of Miss Dietrich and Emil Jannings, it is directed by Josef Von Sternberg, one of Germany's greatest pioneer directors. Critic Lewis Jacobs states in *The Rise of the American Film* that: "This technically superb picture had... remarkable camera angles and composition, elaborate background details, a smooth and easy blending of sequences through dissolves and music and songs which moved with the images. Such features gave the film a sensuous elegance..."

The coordination of all the college committees to promote unity in Public Relations was the main purpose of the Public Relations Committee meeting Tuesday, October 1, which was attended by representatives of Judicial, Executive, Non Resident Term Committees, and Recreation Council. Mr. Frank Stanbrough, Public Relations Director, stated the fact that applications are down 20% from last year, which he attributes to the fact that schools no longer recommend Bennington because of its rumored "reputation."

Suggestions were made as how to remedy the situation through increased public relations activity. Solveig Peterson, chairman of Recreation Council, told of the precautions taken to control the Open House with Williams on Wednesday, October 3. Jill Warburg, chairman of Executive Committee, stated the problem of unannounced men on campus at night as being a source of bad reference to the college. As a solution for the situation, Martha Hornblower, chairman of Judicial Committee, suggested a tightening of the rule that men report to switchboard upon arrival.

The need for further awareness by the individual of the effect of public relations was stressed, and Jill Warburg reported plans for a Community Meeting at which the Standards and Rules of the College be clarified and open to suggestions for revision. There were also suggestions that a more equal distribution of freshmen in the houses would facilitate orientation in regard to the Standards and Rules and that the House Chairman's role be more important. Miss Rebecca Stickney, Director of Admissions, proposed a campus-wide circulation of the pamphlet used last year, "Answers to Persistent Questions About Bennington."

The need for chartering the Public Relations Committee in the Constitution was brought up, but the general consensus as stated by Mrs. De Gray, Director of Student Personnel, remained that unless the committee had a definite purpose in relation to the Community, it should not be chartered. Edith Askin, Chairman, stated the function of the Public Relations Committee as being a liaison between the Public Relations Office and the Community. Jill Warburg and Martha Hornblower suggested that it function as a correspondence agent for their committees in regard to letters received by them about the College, and as a liaison between the Community and Executive and Judicial Committees.

A decision was made to have representatives from the chartered committees at the future Public Relations meetings.

## "Experiment" Rep To Speak Here Wed.

Next Wednesday, October 10, the N.R.T. office has arranged to have a representative of the "Experiment in International Living" here on campus. All students who might be interested in going abroad this Non-Resident Term on "The Experiment" plan are asked to meet in Barn No. 1 at 5:15 p. m.



MR. MAGAL OF INDIA

## Mr. Magal Discusses Indian Sense Of Humor

In a luncheon interview, Mr. Magal, spokesman for the six Indian students visiting last week, made the following remarks in expressing his feelings toward Great Britain: "As the last nail is being hammered into the coffin of Imperialism, (India was Great Britain's last colony) we Indians grow to like the British more and more. Indians have an instinctive sympathy for the underdog." He said this with a smile, but his expression became more serious as he went on to state his great respect for the way Great Britain was surviving under the strain of her loss of 1947. He wondered whether India could have come through as well had she been dealt such a blow.

Amazing as it may seem to those who heard him speak during the question periods after the India lectures, Mr. Magal has had no oratorical training. The only lecturing experience he has had was in the history, economics and political science courses he taught at Nizam College, Osmania University, where he had received his B. A. and M. A. in those fields.

Mr. Magal was born in Banga-

lore and brought up in Hyderabad. His father was an engineer, and the rest of the family, traditionally, coffee planters and members of the Civil Service. Mr. Magal speaks six languages including English, Kannada, Hindu, Urdu, Telugu, Marathi and is not married.

The Indian sense of humor was the main topic of conversation at the interview since everyone was feeling slightly giddy after three solid days of India anyway.

Mr. Magal spoke of humor as a means of getting rid of one's inhibitions by allowing them to come to the surface in a burst of laughter. "In India we ridicule the idiosyncrasies of each caste." To illustrate his point he told a story about a man who went to get his driver's license:

"There are three questions which you must answer," said the instructor, "before I will give you a license. What would you do if you saw a cow in the road while driving your car? a donkey? a Punjabee?" The man answered

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## EDITORIAL

It would seem, judging from "Proposed Revision for Standards and Rules," that the sense of humor on campus is deteriorating.

Suggestion one, "No liquor can be served in a faculty apartment" etc., characterizes the humor of the ten year old, who gets pleasure out of ridiculing his elders.

Suggestion two, which suggests that Judicial Committee pass on all long distance phone calls is typical of small people trying to make themselves superior to political organizations and their laws to which they themselves are maladjusted.

The third suggestion that lights be left on and shades be left up, etc., brings to mind the dreamy adolescent imagining herself in romantic situations, which in this case, strikes us as a pathetic manifestation of puberty.

The idea about parking meters reveals its author's rather unattractive preoccupation with money.

Suggestion six, "Because of public opinion" etc., is simply playing with the dangerous which is typical of the maladjusted adolescent.

Number seven is sheer bathroom humor.

Number eight is not worth mentioning.

Number nine's suggestion that driving permits be issued on seniority basis, smacks of frustration.

"The gracious representative" suggestion, which occupies the tenth place in the distinguished eleven, is terribly provincial.

As for the last, which begins, "Every girl entering campus after eleven o'clock," isn't it too bad that some people have to make such obvious efforts at being sophisticated.

Seriously, aside from the poor taste, maladjustment, and underdeveloped sense of humor displayed in this "joke," it should be realized that colleges today are engaged in a desperate fight against decreasing enrollment. It is felt that the social reputation of Bennington College is not helping the situation at all. Instead of coarse jokes about it, more constructive thought and action would seem to be in order.

## Aldona Kanauka Of Lithuania Is Freshman At Bennington

The fair-haired, brown-eyed beauty seen on the campus this year is Lithuanian born Aldona Kanauka who was met in Commons for her interview. Propped on a window seat and wearing a yellow polo shirt, the only means of identification to this reporter was her soft accent just previously heard over the telephone. After recognition and introductions were made, the interview began.

"Of course," began Aldona, "You know I am a D. P. and come from Lithuania. Five years ago, because of the war, I fled to Germany where I remained for three years. There, I attended a local high school." "In Germany," she continued, "Students are not allowed to attend outside dances nor

are they allowed to drink or smoke as they do here in America. They cannot choose their own curriculum so that the student must take whatever schedule the school gives them." By the way, she laughed, "in Europe high schools are called gymnasiums."

As well as being intellectually inclined, Aldona likes to play volleyball and tennis.

At Bennington, Aldona hopes to become a literature major. She reads and speaks her native tongue, English, and German fluently.

Rushing off to her next class, Aldona bid this reporter "labadiena, mano drague," which means "Farewell, my friend."

## Confessions Of A Neophyte Smoker

by Leslie Wentz

Arriving at Bennington three weeks ago with the firm intention of showing all the suave, sophisticated Benningtonites just what sophistication really was, I decided that one of the prime requisites was a deep and fervent addiction to nicotine. Since this addiction was not yet a part of my equipment, I set out to develop it... but quick.

This, I had no doubt whatsoever, was easy. You put the cigarette in your mouth, struck a match, waved it around in the vicinity of the cigarette, breathed in... and there you were. However, I thought it prudent to experiment before venturing out into the open.

The first step was to procure some supplies. I marched up to the store counter and nonchalantly said, "Uh... er... hmmm... cigarettes!"

"What brand, please?"

This momentarily daunted me, but I carried on bravely. "Ca... no, Chesterfields, please. Oh, and I guess I need some more matches". More matches! I didn't have any, but I felt that it sounded better to say "more."

Clutching my booty, I hurried back to my room and, carefully closing the door, settled down for a nice quiet smoke. After a slight preliminary skirmish with the package, (The cigarettes, I thought, were uncommonly tightly packed; at least, I couldn't seem to get my fingers around one) I put the cigarette in my mouth and was reaching for the matches when... a knock on the door.

"Blast it," I thought to myself. "Come in," I said aloud.

"Hi! Mind if I come in? I live next door to you," the girl explained, "and I thought we'd better get acquainted. You new here?"

"Yes," I said, "Please sit down." A daring thought had just occurred to me. "Cigarette?" I asked, holding the pack out to her.

"Thank you." She took one,

pulled out a lighter and lit it. The simplicity of the operation again impressed me and I proceeded to do likewise. There must have been a breeze or something because the match went out. I tried again, cupping my hands around the light. The match went out. I decided that I must have smothered it by keeping the air away.

"Here," said the girl, holding out her lighter.

"Thanks," I said, approaching it gingerly with my cigarette. The lighter flame flickered and danced, but didn't go out (it was one of those lighters guaranteed for hurricanes) so, the cigarette lit. I took it out of my mouth, made a sweeping gesture with it and said, "My name's Leslie, what's yours?" stuck the cigarette back in my mouth and breathed in while she replied that her name was Mary.

I suddenly felt a strong inclination to cough, but, feeling that she might get the wrong impression, held back. This was to no avail; cough I must and cough I did.

"Catching cold?" she asked.

"... I guess so. We drove up in an open car and I suppose..." I sniffled.

Mary was now inspecting the closet, so I cautiously tried again. I found that I could hold the smoke in my mouth and then blow it out again with a beautiful big whoosh... This, I felt, must look very sophisticated. Of course, it wasn't smoking, but no one could possibly know the difference and later on I'd really learn.

We went on talking and smoking for a while and then I began to notice a strange, bitter taste in my mouth. I had been holding the cigarette between my teeth for quite a time and now the paper had gotten wet and little bits of tobacco were dribbling out. As unobtrusively as possible I reached up and picked the bits of tobacco off my lip. I don't think Mary saw me. She might have been looking the other way at the time.

I had now smoked the cigarette down to the very butt (There couldn't have been more than an inch left), and decided that it was about time to put it out. I grasped it firmly and ground it to pieces in the saucer I was using as a temporary ashtray (as I explained to Mary, I hadn't unpacked any of my things yet) and suggested brightly that we go to dinner.

I felt that I had passed my first test under the fire of nicotine very well indeed.

On the other hand, thinking it over, I have decided that, as the true sophisticate, it would be very gauche for me to smoke. So now when people ask me if I'd like a cigarette, I smile sadly and say that, for me, cigarettes are a thing

of the past. I have given them up because of a sudden and severe attack of asthma. Me and Marcel Proust.

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## Don't Let This Happen To You

Recently, the fire wardens were given questions on fire regulations with which to test the students in their houses, reporting those failing to Sue Means, Fire Chief. We submit, without comment, the following answers, of a student who shall remain nameless, to the questions pertaining to the fire regulations:

(1) What is the Soda Acid extinguisher used for?

(Answer) To put out fires, of course.

(2) What is the alarm ring which pertains to your side of campus?

(Answer) The shrill cry, Williams' man sighted crossing the horizon.

(3) If you were in the barn late at night and discovered a fire in a classroom which was beyond the stage of simple control with an applied extinguisher, what would you do?

(Answer) Either run like hell or watch it burn while cackling gleefully, depending what mood I was in.

(4) Where is the alarm box located on your side of campus?

(Answer) Under those little lights in the side of the houses.

(5) What is the alarm ring for Jennings?

(Answer) The cry, "Here comes the night watchman."

(6) If a general alarm rings and you are in your house, what would you do?

(Answer) Go back to sleep.

## John Holabird Teaches Freshman Drama Students

John Holabird is the most recent addition to the Drama Department, and is teaching all freshman theatre courses. A graduate of Harvard, Class of '42, Mr. Holabird spent four years in the Army with the 82nd Airborne Division before returning to Harvard to receive his masters degree in Architecture. Theatre, having always been a major interest and having demanded a great deal of his time at Harvard, Mr. Holabird next taught Drama for two and a half years at the Francis Parker School in Chicago to students between the ages of 6 to 18. His plans for the term include a production of Aristophanes' *Peace* which will be performed on the lawn in front of commons.

(7) Except in an emergency, where does one turn in an alarm?

(Answer) I'd wait until my next counselling period and tell my counsellor.

(8) What is the all clear signal?

(Answer) The shrill cry, "He's sick today and is not going to teach his class."

(9) If the bed in your room caught fire, what extinguisher would you use to put it out?

(Answer) I refuse to answer that on the grounds it might incinerate me!

(10) What is the Pyrene extinguisher for?

(Answer) To mix high balls when we run out of soda.

The Community will be relieved to know this student failed.

## Latvian Born, Vija Peterson Most Interested in Painting



VIJA PETERSON

Vija Peterson, born and raised in Riga, Latvia, is now one of our new students. Although the age of most of the students at Bennington, Vija's life has already been filled by innumerable experiences.

Vija, her mother and her brother lived in Latvia until 1944. When the Russians came, they fled to Poland where they believed they were safe. The country was blockaded, however, and with no better means of transportation, they fled by foot to South Germany.

When the Americans arrived, Vija and her family were placed in a D. P. camp where they prepared for immigration. They received and accepted an offer to come to Williamstown, Massachusetts.

In Williamstown, Vija entered the Buxton High School as a junior. While inquiring about surrounding colleges, Bennington was recommended to Vija by the headmistress of the Buxton School.

Vija is especially interested in broadening her knowledge of painting here after spending this past summer in Woodstock, Vermont, taking painting lessons.

## Joan Hsu, Freshman This Year Can Speak Five Languages

It isn't surprising that Joan Hsu, a freshman this year, can speak five languages. Born in China, she has lived and studied on three continents in her seventeen years. Her travelling began at the age of three, when she and her mother left China and went to Germany during the Chinese-Japanese War. After a stay in Berlin, she was taken to Rome, where her father was Chargé d'Affaires for the Chinese Embassy. Having choice of only two schools in Rome, Fascist or Catholic, Joan went to a Catholic school for three years, acquired a speaking and reading knowledge of Italian plus the German she had learned in Berlin. At the same time, because her French governess couldn't speak Italian, she also learned to speak French.



JOAN HSU

To a child, Rome was an exciting place. Her most thrilling moment was the private audition with the Pope before leaving the city for China. Chungking, after Rome, was disappointing. No facilities were available of any sort and epidemics of diphtheria, measles and malaria were common. Joan took quite a while getting adjusted to the small reed lamp after the electric lighting of the embassy.

## Nationalism Strong in Children

The scout school she attended in the suburbs of Chungking was an example of the patriotic feeling instilled in the school children of the period. Every Monday was Memorial Day, and for two hours on those mornings, rain or shine, the students stood at attention outdoors and chanted Sun Yat Sen's dying words and chants such as: "Death to the Japanese devils, long live China, long live Chiang Kai Chek." At the end of the war, when the Japanese unconditionally surrendered, the children were allowed to stay up, and the strict school rules were relaxed, so the students could run through the streets with torches, celebrating the victory.

Shanghai, inhabited by White Russians, beggars, and tradesmen from all nations, was the site of Joan's high school years. Here, in the theatres showing American movies, Joan says Chinese children her age got the impression that the United States is a country which operates by push-buttons.

With the approach of the Communists armies, Joan and her sister and brother, with their mother, were forced to flee to the United States, where Joan finished high school, in Washington, D. C. There, she says, she began to love America. "The football games, with peanuts and popcorn were the most amazing thing for me," says Joan, "and simply everyone seemed to be riding in cars, not walking around, like they do here at Bennington. For the first time I began to enjoy studying, because in America you can pick your own courses."

Now at Bennington, Joan is planning her own courses, with the view of sampling as much as possible in the liberal arts. Music and Drama form her preferred interests. "But the best thing," says Joan, "is that you don't have to stand at attention, or sit up straight, like this, but can sit or lie on the floor, like this."

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500 N.S.A. Delegates Condemn McCarthyism

(Continued from Page 1)

Allard K. Lowenstein, retiring president of USNSA, reported on the year's activity and declared that we, as American students, should not be afraid to speak our minds, and should assume a role of leadership in the student community.

Endorse "Honor System"

By almost unanimous approval, the congress upheld the college "honor system" despite the recent controversy over the expelling of 90 cadets from West Point for cheating on exams.

The congress also urged the "continuance and furtherance of the honor system in college communities." The resolution pointed out that infractions and violations had occurred but it also stated that "Violations though not condonable are the result of shortcomings of a system which involved human beings and consequently is subject to human error."

Underlying the resolution the group felt was the principle of "self-development through self-control and the responsibility of the individual."

NSA's international commitments for the coming year drew the hottest debate of the congress. The group heard foreign delegates express their views on the formation of a new world union before it voted against establishing a new world student union at the present time.

Re-Affirm IUS Stand

The organization re-affirmed its stand not to work with the Communist-dominated International Union of Students. It did come out in favor of setting up a new world union of students sometime in the future; but abided by the majority decision that there was not enough support for a new union at the present time.

SMAP (Students' Mutual Assistance Program), a practical program for international cooperation on a student level, is being co-ordinated by NSA. In a meeting to be held at Edinburgh, Scotland, the NSA recommendations concerning future development of the program will be presented.

However, it was decided that in 1951, N.S.A. should send observers to the IUS council meetings if possible, but unless some change in the IUS policy is noted, the observers will be the only contact.

The congress voted to negotiate with the Young Adult Council for membership in that body as it is the official representative of America in the World Assembly of Youth.

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Free Europe University In Exile Opens No. '51

(Continued from Page 1)

The Free Europe University in Exile was founded as an educational branch of the National committee for a Free Europe. A group of private American citizens, united in their conviction that freedom is indivisible and embarked upon a program of positive action against Soviet enslavement by combatting the "Big Lie."

The National Committee for a Free Europe has built three programs of action: The first keeps the students in touch with their homelands with use of the broadcasting facilities of Radio Red Europe which the Committee operates in Western Germany. The second provides asylum, assistance and employment to individual exiles and groups of exiles during their enforced stay in the West. The third program is designed specifically to educate young exiles and the Free Europe University in Exile is the first move in that direction.

Note: "It may be that some of the members of your academic family will be interested in the progress of the FREE EUROPE UNIVERSITY IN EXILE. If they are, and you will advise us of this fact, we shall be very happy indeed to put the names of anyone you suggest on a permanent mailing list. We believe this University will grow and that its activities and services will be found increasingly important in the cause of freedom during this important period when the West is attempting to fight the Communist lie."

This is a quotation from the letter sent to Bennington College written by Levering Tyson, Secretary of Free Europe University in Exile.

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Mr. Magal Discusses Indian Sense of Humor

(Continued from Page 1)

almost immediately.

"For a cow I would slow down and pass at a moderate speed; for a donkey I would stop dead; upon meeting a Punjabee I would go in-to reverse."

In India the humor is direct. Dead pan is as non-existent as sarcasm, among women, is prevalent. It is considered bad taste, particularly in northern India, to laugh aloud.

At this point one girl sitting at the table laughed loudly at the very thought and then quickly, but not quickly enough, checked herself.

"Oh, of course only men are impolite when they laugh loudly. Women are excluded," smiled Mr. Magal. A few moments later he said that this polite remark was an example of a typical Indian joke. Several moments later when the meaning of the joke began to dawn upon her, the poor girl who laughed loudly wasn't quite sure whether to laugh (quietly) or to be insulted. (Frankly, we still don't know.)

L. C. L.

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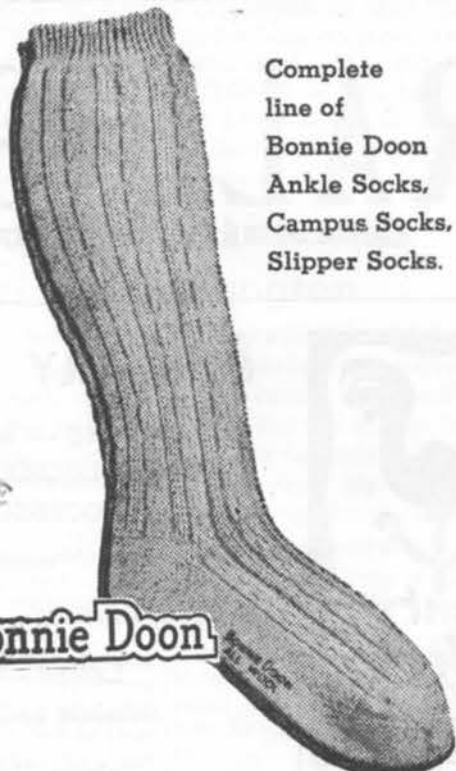
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