

THE BEACON

Published Every Other Week by Students of the Bennington College Community.

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Bennington College, Bennington, Vermont

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Summer Dance Center to be Established

This summer a center for modern dancers will be established under the joint sponsorship of Connecticut College and the School of Education of New York University. It will be held in New London, Connecticut, from July 13 until August 24. This enterprise is a continuation of the Bennington School of the Dance, which opened in 1934 and terminated its last session in 1942. Many of the same people who participated in the Bennington School of the Dance, in administrative as well as teaching positions, are involved in this new project. Bennington faculty include: Martha Hill (Chairman of the Administrative Board and on the faculty), Mary J. Shelly, William Bales, Ben Belitt, Hazel Johnson; graduates participating in the program are Ethel Winter (assistant to Miss Graham), Betty Horner Walberg (instructor of music for dance) and Dorothea Douglas and Joe Skinner both of whom will be in residence in the Martha Graham Company. Martha Graham, Arch Lauterer, and Jose Limon, three former faculty members at Bennington, are playing active parts in the summer school session.

Integrated Study of Dance

As stated in the leaflet, the program offered by the six week summer school session makes possible "an integrated study of the whole art in which the emphasis is on the active relationship between technique and composition, music and staging, practice and performance." Martha Graham, Jose Limon, the Dudley-Maslow-Bales Trio, and their dance companies, will participate in a concert series throughout the six week period and the attendance at these series will be part of the comprehensive program of study for all students.

Applications Coming In

Many applications for admission have already been filed, and Miss Hill states that some foreign students from France and China, as well as students and teachers from all over the United States have been among the applicants. To gain admission, the applicant must be a college graduate or undergraduate, or give evidence of serious training connected with dance. The total cost of the program for resident students amounts to \$385, which includes admission to all concerts.

Sally Liberman

Stephen Spender Speaks on 'Modern Poetry and Reality'



Stephen Spender

The community was pleased to be able to hear a lecture given by Mr. Stephen Spender, recognized contemporary poet, Thursday, March 1st, 1948. The title of Mr. Spender's lecture was "Modern Poetry and Reality". Mr. Kunitz introduced the speaker as one of those poets who have brought a poetic reality to their own work.

Mr. Spender spoke with sincerity and an intense interest in his subject. He defined the common concept of poetry as an expression of the poet's existence, philosophy, experience, psychology, etc. When talking of poetry today we find ourselves speaking of the poet himself. The reason for this seems to be that modern poets are writing close to their own personal experience, and from these rational situations, they evolve the poetic experience. This method is more or less a prose to poetry process.

Two Elements in Poetry

According to Mr. Spender, there are two distinct elements in poetry. They are, 1) the actual prosaic content which can take the form of opinions, autobiography, message, or narrative journalism, and, 2) the poetic experience which is the moment distinguishing reality from esthetic value. In this moment, the tangible becomes intangible, and the prosaic becomes true poetry. Modern poets are trying to write about the oppressing reality of their world and still to write poetry. Herein lies an interesting tension of opposites, attempting to create poetry out of material which is not inherently poetic. Mr. Spender feels that the whole function of poetry lies in doing this dual thinking, in combining representation with art.

In explaining the true function of

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Spring Dance to be Held May 1

The Recreational Council has set the date, May 1, for the Spring Dance. Sticking to the usual policy, they will not divulge the theme of the dance until the day arrives. The price per couple has not been confirmed, but will probably be \$5 or \$6.

Steve Anthony and his Orchestra, the band that played at the last dance, will operate between 11 p. m. and 3 a. m., but this term there will be an added attraction: a male vocalist. The octet will also provide entertainment.

NSA Representatives Resign from International Union of Students

Two interim representatives of the National Student Association to the International Union of Students (IUS) in Europe resigned last month as a result of the failure of the IUS secretariat to condemn the action of the present Czechoslovakian Government with regard to the treatment of students in Prague. This action probably terminated the relationship which existed between NSA and IUS. Interim representation was completely withdrawn and a negotiating team will not go abroad this summer.

Incident Leading to Resignation

The actual incident which the representatives felt should have been condemned took place on February 25th. Police fired on a procession of 1,500 students marching to ask President Benes not to install the new government. At least one student was killed and several wounded. Representatives James Smith, University of Texas, and William Ellis, Harvard, stated that since the demonstration all student groups and the Czech National Union of Students had been dissolved by Communist "action committees". All alleged reactionary professors and students have been banned from the University at Prague and every democratic principle has been violated, their report said.

Action Terminates Association

The officers of the NSA believe this action of IUS ended any possible affiliation between the NSA and IUS. The staff of the NSA is waiting for more complete information and for review by the NSA Executive Committee in April.

International Program to Continue

The Association, however, will continue its international program and will make every effort to co-operate with individual foreign student unions in non-political programs. Student exchange, travel, and relief activities will be continued in an effort to promote international understanding and friendship.

Rebecca Stickney, Bennington '43, is New Alumnae Secretary

Rebecca Stickney is one of the newest additions to the Bennington staff. An alumna of Bennington, she graduated with the class of 1943, and since she is acquainted with many former students is well fitted for her present position. She is one of the most important forces in the current movement to organize alumnae groups and encourage their participation and interest in many of the college's plans. Alumnae can be extremely important in publicizing their alma mater and acting as a vital element in the relationship between Bennington and future students and supporters.

Background

Since her graduation from Bennington as a science major, Miss Stickney has worked at Harvard Medical School and then for an architect. She came to Bennington on February 1 before the college re-opened after the non-resident term. At present she is busy contacting the various alumnae groups, especially those newly organized. Previous to this term there were alumnae associations

(Continued on page 4)

Ettore Rella, John C. Smith Join Bennington Faculty



John C. Smith, Ettore Rella

Bennington students are pleased to have two new faculty members, Mr. John Caswell Smith and Mr. Ettore Rella, and to welcome back Mr. Horst Mendershausen who was a member of the Bennington faculty before he went to Germany. Mr. Smith will work in sociology, Mr. Rella in literature, and Mr. Mendershausen will resume his teaching in political economy.

Rella's Play to be Produced

Mr. Rella received his education at the University of Rome, in Italy, where he pursued a broad program of studies. His experience in the theatre and the

(Continued on page 3)

Beacon Adds Nine Staff Writers and Elects New Heads

The Beacon is pleased to announce that it has added eight writers to its staff. The new members are Nancy Andrews, Linda Borden, Barbara Bowles, Phebe Brown, Nola Dorbritz, Candace de Vries, Corinne Silverman, Suzanne Mosher and Joyce Perry.

The new Editor is Cynthia Lee; the new Assistant Editor, Sheila Wood. The two additions to the Editorial Board are Jeannette Winans and Lois Klopfer.

In the Business and Circulation field, Susan Pierce has become the Business Manager and Elizabeth Palmedo is the new head of Circulation.

Janet Roosevelt is now in charge of layout.

The staff and Editors wish to thank all those who tried out, for their interest.

Octet Picks New Members

Jonne Hutton and Jane Roberts have been added to the octet this term, replacing Margaret Griggs and Mary Burrell. Jonne is a freshman, while Jane is a transfer from Sweetbriar.

As soon as the days are warmer and long enough, the octet will resume their lawn singing after lunch and dinner. They also hope to have the Harvard octet up some weekend this term. In addition to this, they will, of course, sing at the Formal Dance.

Williams has invited them down to sing at the house party weekend on May 8. The North Adams Radio Station has also asked them to appear on the radio some time this term. Plans for this are not definite as yet.

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THE BEACON

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Editorial

It is gratifying to know that all groups connected with Bennington College are working as hard as possible towards the solution of the current financial problem. The alumnae and the parents have organized, and are formulating plans for fund-raising outside the college. The students and faculty are working on measures to cut down actual college expenditures. The administration and trustees are coordinating and directing the entire program. No effort is being spared to think of ways in which to eliminate the present deficit and to raise a substantial sum of money.

There are many facets of fund-raising over which the students have no control whatsoever; but the one absolute requirement for success in this venture, that the college be well thought of, depends entirely on the student. As far as the academic side of Bennington's reputation is concerned, the college is in good standing; it is student behavior which has been the most constant target for adverse criticism. To a certain extent, this is unavoidable, due to the fact that Bennington has fewer rules than any other girls' college. This relative lack of regulations increases the vulnerability of the college: at a more conventional institution, the administration is not blamed for the misdemeanors of its students because it can point to the specific rule which the offender has violated; at Bennington, however, the burden of outside criticism is shifted to the college which permits such freedom. It is, therefore, necessary for each student to be especially careful of her conduct. Incidents which take place on campus, in Bennington or in Williamstown, are the basis for stories—some accurate, some exaggerated—which circulate with amazing speed. No matter how thorough the plans, and how resourceful the ideas, combined efforts will be of no avail if we do not prove that we are mature enough to accept the responsibility of our freedom.

Facing Stark Realities

The General Stark Theatre, well-known entertainment center in Bennington, deviated from its primary purpose last Monday by presenting "Three Daring Daughters" with Jeanette MacDonald, Jose Iturbi, Jane Powell and on ad infinitum.

The "daring" in the title seemed particularly appropriate since I couldn't understand how anyone involved dared to put his name to such a bit of nonsense. This was by no means a "simple musical". The plot was worthy of at least "Ma Perkins".

Jeanette MacDonald, as the harrassed mother of the three daring daughters, seemed rather alarmed at the prospect of facing an entire picture without Nelson Eddy, but was soon reconciled by receiving Jose Iturbi as a consolation prize.

Jeanette, who had been divorced for some time, had led her children to believe that their father was quite a guy.

(Continued on page 5)

Eight New Students Decorate Old Campus

Thinking back to the time when I too was a New Student, I immediately took to heart my assignment to interview the latest crop. Now the tables would be turned, I gloated. Now I with just that casually cultivated air of Pennington Bennington, would drop in on eight shy but intensively eager young things, and with a few calculated questions win their confidence and a great scoop story. This was a dire misconception. For days I lurked in corridors and haunted Commons with designs upon Freshmen. I phoned, using assumed names. My brilliant questions lost all their glamor. It got to a point where I could hardly stammer, over the shoulder of some Williams man, "Could I please speak to you for a moment, please?" Further explanation of my mission only resulted in such remarks as "I'm VERY uncooperative," or "Reporter honey, I'm here to correlate."

Half Are Transfers

In probing for vital statistics I have learned that our new students are unusually interesting and individualistic beings. Of the eight, half are transfers. Above the strains of "Tristan" and with bribes of "your name in the paper", I discovered that Lorna Payson is a Maine lass, but transferred from Black Mountain College, N. C., and is an Art addict; while Helen Cappel attended a western college for a year and taught school this winter in Baltimore. She has studied dancing with Martha Graham, which she describes as a wonderful experience, and expects to major in dance.

Helen Ellis comes from George Wash-

(Continued on page 4)

"One Dropped with a Rash"

I'm sure that by now you've all heard about the big racket. Well, the non-resident term office is at the bottom of this whole business, and I think it's pretty terrible myself.

Seems that one of the ten girls who worked on an Indian reservation this winter threw herself into her job to such an extent that when she returned to college, things just got the better of her, and finally, the Administration had to send away for the whole darn tribe to come up and call for her.

Sally, we used to call her, was a freshman in my house, and after she got back to school refused to leave her hogan (Room 12 upstairs) except for meals. Unfortunately, she was told she was check-up the first day of the new term, and from that point on, wouldn't answer to any other name. It was all O.K. until she offered to carry the House Representative around papoose-style.

When you think about it, we never fully realize the threat of Non-Resident Term "experience". The dangers of taking a job and enjoying it can wreck the entire Community. Take Ruth for example, who worked as a tester in a yo-yo factory. Ruth hasn't even typed out her winter period report because she hasn't been able to stop her right hand from performing its up-and-down motions of this winter. Because she can't shake hands or set her hair, this girl has turned into an unsocial and sloppy person, and all because of the non-resident term.

Girls who worked in restaurants are also maladjusted. They have a new language all their own. When I heard a waitress friend yelling in the kitchen, "one dropped with a rash", I was certain someone had become ill, but no, she only wanted a poached egg and a rasher of bacon.

Of course there's always that small percentage of "we normal ones" left, but you see life has become unbearable. I only hope that next year I'm fortunate enough to remain unscathed by winter period. See, I was smart to hide in the closet when they locked our rooms December 20th.

H. F.

"Jolly Good Show"

by Linda Borden

That I failed to return home with a British accent is, I secretly think, a great disappointment to many of my friends. It was certainly not from lack of opportunity, as I spent two months of my winter period in London. I was visiting the American Ambassador and Mrs. Lewis W. Douglas and their daughter, Sharman. Every door in England is open to the Douglasses, so wherever they went I tagged along. In this way I had the opportunity to meet people I would never have met otherwise and to do things that I would never have been able to do on my own.

Preparing for Royalty

The most exciting people I met were the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh and Princess Margaret Rose. The Douglasses gave a cocktail party in their honour about three weeks after I arrived. The entire week before the great event was spent in learning protocol and practicing curtsies. The Princesses must be addressed as M'am and the Duke addressed as Sir. As I

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On the Bias

If any of you fair members of the community have paid any special attention to things around the dining halls recently, you may have noticed that something new is happening. I am not referring to the menus, but to that all-important yet often overlooked personage, the student waitress. She it is who struggles over and through your welters of notebooks, overcoats, out-thrust feet, and shouted orders with the steaming tray; she is the worm of the meal hour who cannot turn—without losing her job. In her cause I complain.

According to the new set of waitress rules we find that unless a student waitress is in uniform, in the kitchen, with tray outstretched by twenty-five minutes before the meal hour she is allowed nothing to eat at that meal. (She is still expected to wait on, however.) This means that a waitress detained by professor, long-distance telephone, or bike accident alike can just go ahead and faint while serving before she gets any sympathy for her mishap—much less any food to rehabilitate her

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c/o R. S. V. P.

Letter Box

The Beacon welcomes letters containing criticism, suggestions, or opinion. Address care of R.S.V.P. and place in Box 104.

Shotover Cleve
Headington
Oxford, England

Feb. 9, 1948

To the Bennington Beacon

Department of International Reputation?

While my husband and I were visiting in Villars, Switzerland during January, we heard the following brief conversation in the lobby of a small theatre while the movie reel was being changed:

A bright young man explaining to two English girls:

"Yes, most girls colleges are very strict in the States. There's one that isn't, that's Bennington. The girls can do anything, and go to New York whenever they want. My brother has a fiancée who goes there, but she isn't at all the type—she's not crazy and all frizzy and wild, you know!"

Lydia Phelps Stokes Katzenbach

P. S. At cocktails the other day a stalwart American Scholar told my husband that there were three things in life that really scared him: His Schools (final examinations here), the atomic bomb, and a Bennington graduate. (My husband concurred, only reversed the order.)

Non-Resident Term Jobs Varied and Fruitful

Many unusually interesting jobs were held by Bennington girls this winter. Among them were such things as work in theater groups, factory and social work and travel abroad.

Judy Kanin worked in the Educational Alliance Settlement House for adults and children in east side New York, teaching arts and crafts, and some painting to the children. She also helped out in the kindergarten, which gave her an opportunity to do actual case histories on some of the children. Since the neighborhood was largely foreign, with many nationalities mixed together, it gave her a chance to see a large variety of types of people. "Perhaps the most interesting part of my job," she stated, "was seeing the old customs gradually giving way to the new."

Work in Niagara Falls Theater

Both Joan Tewksbury and Suzanne Sessions acted and worked backstage

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(*Non-Resident Term)

M.F.

Etorre Rella, John C. Smith Join Bennington Faculty

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literary world has been varied, and includes acting and directing as well as writing. Mr. Rella's first play, *Please Communicate*, was produced in San Francisco in 1938. It was "a long experimental play in verse". Another work, *Making Change*, was produced experimentally by the Group Theatre in New York in 1941. A third play *Ten Star General*, whose subject matter is the war, is being considered now by the New Stages and Experimental Theatre groups in New York. Mr. Rella's latest work, completed in January, *Stars for the Dark Cave*, will have an October production in New York and will be directed by Harold Clurman, who has been associated with the Group Theatre.

Work in Poetry

Mr. Rella has also written poetry which has been published in "little magazines", and some of his verse was privately printed during the war in a book called *Here and Now*. He is associated with the Playwrights of the Dramatists' Guild. During the war he was in the army and was trained for Intelligence work in Italy. However, his final assignment proved to be anti-aircraft work on Saipan.

Mr. Rella is giving several literature courses, including a play-writing workshop and a study of poetry in the theatre. He is particularly interested in a dramatic form for poetry, not the reviving of a dead form, as, for example, in Maxwell Anderson's verse plays; but the expansion of new forms, employing the best of modern poets, to communicate within the framework of our contemporary theatre. This would include the development of such forms as the Broadway musical and the use of a living contemporary language in a combined poetic and dramatic form.

Mr. Rella has found his classes extremely receptive to the theoretical and practical demands of such an undertaking, and he is particularly impressed by the emphasis on drama at Bennington and the interesting work done in that area.

Smith Has Variety of Experiences

Mr. Smith's activities in the field of social work began while he attended high school in Northampton, Mass., and worked for the YMCA during the summers. He received the degree of B.P.E. (Bachelor of Physical Education) from Springfield College and later worked for the "Y" in the capacities of membership secretary, director of boys' work and associate director of camping activities. Mr. Smith was dean of men at Virginia State College, Petersburg, Virginia, and also taught a variety of classes, including hygiene, physical education and zoology.

Organized Settlement House

In Philadelphia, Mr. Smith organized the Wharton Settlement House which, before he came, was nothing more than a house of eighteen empty rooms. Within twenty-one days it was transformed into a functioning settlement house, with Mr. Smith in the position of head worker. While he was in Philadelphia, he was also associated with Temple University as an instructor in race relations.

National Urban League

In 1937 and 1938, Mr. Smith held a fellowship from the National Urban League and studied at the New York School of Social Work. His previous experience in the field proved quite valuable, since the curriculum at the New York School included both the theory and the practice of social case work. He has long been associated with the Urban League, a welfare agency of some fifty-eight branches, whose varied activities include educational programs, vocational guidance, the improvement of race relations and employment conditions, and general community organization.

War Work

During the war Mr. Smith was at-

On the Bias

(Continued from page 2)

jangled nerves. This is actually as preposterous as it sounds. If she is any later than ten minutes before the meal in arriving she loses her job for two weeks upon the second such offense. This is also put down in her permanent college job record as a good-sized demerit. Picture, then, the waitress with a one-o'clock class. Due to the new rulings, substitute waitresses are a rarity, and the waitress without one either misses part of her class to wait on or loses her job. Few can afford either alternative. As a result, many have been forced to quit their jobs, rather than face a bad job report when they try for Senior Division. You who are not waitresses know the conditions at lunch—you have had to wait on yourselves or go without.

Since the purpose of the new deadlines seem to be to produce an orderly and efficient student serving system, I think it is defeating that purpose. Waitresses who miss a meal will break the rules against eating while serving in order to get something to eat. Fewer students are willing to wait on, with the result of almost impenetrable confusion at lunch time with everyone in the kitchen getting her own food. Every waitress that I have spoken to agrees that there should be some deadline in order to maintain a reasonable standard, but they are far from satisfied with such a drastic one.

If the members of the community are interested in the battle of the dining halls, I would be interested to hear their opinions both pro and con waitress. Perhaps I am wrong—if I am not, perhaps something can be done.

tached to the Red Cross in Great Britain as a club director and supervisor of Negro personnel. He did special advisory work in race relations and served as a liaison between the Red Cross and the Commissioner of the European Theatre of Operations.

Mr. Smith is teaching a course in social case work which emphasizes the practical aspects of social work and is based on materials drawn from the field.

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Interview with Stephen Spender

"I'm really quite impressed with this," said Stephen Spender, well known British poet, as he laid a copy of the *Silo* in his lap.

"You know," he said, "many of the girls at Sarah Lawrence, where I'm teaching now, write quite well. Very simply and spontaneously."

"Very modern things, I suppose," I said.

"No, they're not under the influence of the modern poets so much, more Robert Frost I would say."

We were sitting, Mr. Spender and I, in my room over two highballs. Mr. Spender, his long legs sprawled out from his chair and looking very much as you imagine a poet ought to look, sipped his drink and looked curiously about the room.

"Speaking of Sarah Lawrence," I said, "what is your general impression of the girls there?" I smiled, rather smugly.

"Well," he said, "the young people are very interested in things going on about them. They're disturbed about the general situation they find themselves in, the possibility of another war and all, but they don't know quite what to do about it. They want to act but don't know how to. They're rather gullible, liable to fall for anything". Here he smiled. "You know, all out to vote for Wallace."

"What do you think of Mr. Wallace," I asked.

"I don't believe Mr. Wallace realizes what Russia's intentions in Europe are." He paused. "He makes the mistake of transposing America's mistakes into Russia's virtues. I agree with him on many things, of course, but really, you can't help but have a negative response to what he says."

Early Literary Success

Mr. Spender, I discovered, is married and has a three-year-old boy. He was born in London in 1909 and has always wanted to write. Unlike many poets, Mr. Spender had little difficulty in getting published and arriving, as it were, in the field of literary successes. During the war he worked as a fireman in London. Toward the end of the war he joined the Foreign Service and, after the war was over, went to Germany as a member of the Department of Intelligence. Later he worked in the department of letters for UNESCO in Paris. He has been at Sarah Lawrence since September, and expects to return to England at the end of the year. In connection with his work abroad, Mr. Spender remarked how important he thought it was for students to go to Europe. The United States is so isolated, he explained, that Americans tend to judge the world at large by American standards. He again emphasized the importance of actually seeing conditions in Europe.

"Of course," he said, "you can run into something equally dangerous when students do go abroad."

Flaws in Student Thought

He then went on to tell the story of a student at Sarah Lawrence who spent six months in Czechoslovakia. She returned from her trip, wildly enthusiastic, and claimed that what has recently occurred in that country is a wonderful thing and the real spirit of a democracy. She disparaged the news reports and press releases. Her friends, she stated, wrote her letters praising the government in Czechoslovakia. This sort of attitude, explained Mr.

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Rebecca Stickney, Bennington
'43, is New Alumnae Secretary

(Continued from page 1)

existing only in New York, Boston, San Francisco and Washington. During the winter months Mrs. Gladys Leslie, head librarian at Bennington, visited many cities in the mid-west; speaking to numerous alumnae and assisting them to organize Alumnae Associations in these cities. Cleveland, Philadelphia, Chicago and Detroit are now forming groups, which, judging from the letters Miss Stickney has been receiving, will be very enthusiastic.

Work On Alumnae Quarterly

Miss Stickney is also working on the Alumnae Quarterly. In past years it has been merely a directory issued four times a year and sent to former students. Besides the formal recording of births, marriages and addresses of former students, this issue of the bulletin is being extended to include articles of interest to the alumnae from former and present faculty and students.

This semester Helen Frankenthaler and Alexandra Crawford are assisting Miss Stickney by writing an article for this issue, which is expected to be published sometime in May. Miss Stickney is interested in contributions of campus photographs for the quarterly. Any pictures of Bennington which the photographer feels will be of interest to alumnae will be very much appreciated.

Visits to Alumnae Groups

While Mrs. Leslie was in the mid-west, Miss Mary Jo Shelly and Miss Stickney traveled in the east and visited alumnae groups already established. They discussed present and future plans with the groups and encouraged them in their work. The most important work at present is to maintain frequent contact between the college and the alumnae. This will be aided by the proposed alumnae week-end and the Quarterly. Many alumnae are already receiving copies of the Beacon, which helps to keep them informed of the spirit and activities of the college at present. Miss Stickney plans to meet with various groups at the end of this month.

April 28 Dr. Burkhardt will be the guest of honor at a dinner to be given in Philadelphia. Numerous prominent educators have been invited to attend.

Bennington alumnae organizations are enthusiastic and Miss Stickney feels that if they are encouraged they will contribute a valuable part to college functions. Many plans have already been suggested: exhibitions of work done by students, teas for prospective applicants and meetings with alumnae from other colleges to publicize the existence of the Bennington Alumnae group.

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Eight New Students Decorate
Old Campus

(Continued from page 2)

ington University where she spent two and one half years. Anthropology is her intended major, with dance as an important interest.

I was told in no uncertain terms by Joyce Perry that everyone at Bennington was very warm; that she was impressed by the freedom in classes, and felt that students here are really learning for themselves, not merely being Taught At. She, like most others, told me how wonderful it was to be able to look out in all directions to the beauty of the mountains and hills. From the depths of my raccoon coat I said "Yes, and isn't it a wonder they don't blow away or freeze their tops off." Joyce transferred from Plymouth Teachers College, and wants to major in Political Economy.

Suzanne Bunker is a Freshman from Yonkers, N. Y. Although not sure of her major, she worked in the Dramatic Workshop of the New School of Social Research this fall, and intends to carry on this interest here. Her sister Kappi went to Bennington a couple of years ago.

It took more than the Green Mountain Flyer to bring Silva Mardiste to Bennington, for she is a special transfer student from Heidelberg University, Germany, in this country on a two year student visa. Her home is in Estonia, which she left in 1944, and she is amazed to find how much Vermont reminds her of her own countryside.

Art, Music, Dance: Potential Majors

Doris Robbins comes from Forest Hills, L. I., has studied for many years at Juilliard, and plays both flute and piano. She is almost as enthusiastic about Bennington as she is about music and dance, which she hopes to combine into a major. I muttered something about "Double majors, only mad dogs and freshmen . . ." which she thought was amusing.

Greenwich Village is the natural habitat of Elizabeth Ivory. Her hobby is photography, especially portraits, and among other startling statements she told me that "People are more important than I am because they're me. I'm not sure that this is right but if it's wrong it's only because I don't understand it." Liz should do very well at Bennington. She intends to pursue Art.

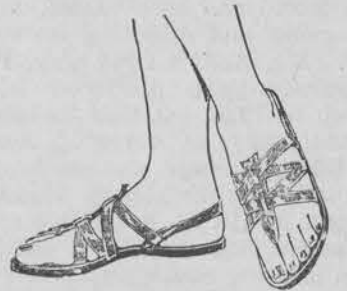
And there you have the bare, bare facts. To produce this glowing story I gave many long hours and wore out several pairs of shoes. Truly an illuminating experience. If any of these statements bears some semblance of inaccuracies and someone (new student perhaps?) wants to find me, it's Canfield 17. I am never in.

JAW

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Alumnae Album

Anne Poor, a former Bennington student, will give an art exhibit in New York, sponsored by the college. Proceeds will go to the Scholarship fund.

Maureen O'Connor, a former pupil of Karl Knath, is now teaching art at the Brearley school in New York City. Her recent one-man show was reviewed in the March fifteenth issue of Contemporary Arts Gallery as having "sprightly charm and good taste". Miss O'Connor's debut was very favorably received and her semi-abstract still lifes and figures were considered promising.

Mrs. Helen (Heidi) Chapman Hucher is heading the newly formed Bennington College Alumnae Association in Philadelphia. Mrs. Elsa Hauschka is co-chairman.

Recent Marriages and Engagements

January 18—Mary R. Burrell to Andrew B. Meldrum, of Cleveland, a graduate of Amherst College.

February 5—Nancy Ellen Craig to Charles Stevenson White, jr.

February 7—Martha Perry, of Waterbury, Conn., to Robert J. Snyder, graduate of Cornell University.

February 29—Marriage of Pamela Soldwedel to Carleton T. Clark, jr., graduate of the University of Maryland.

March 7—Challis Jones, of Chicago, to William B. Snyder, graduate of Williams College.

March 14—Elsa Hinchman engaged to B. Woodruff Clark, Yale College, '43.

Campus students please note: When you send your announcement to the N. Y. Times, please also send it to the Beacon.

Stephen Spender Speaks on 'Modern Poetry and Reality'

(Continued from page 1)

poetry further, Mr. Spender stated that it is "the use of language to transform experiences into a form which can be grasped and examined, thereby ceasing to be the disorder of the external world and becoming the order of our own minds."

Compromise of Values

During the question period, Mr. Spender stressed the inevitable compromise of poetic, or spiritual, values with world reality. This compromise is particularly relevant in our American society. Americans tend to stress external appearances more than other people. In the field of art in the past, the aim was to make the interior emotion as convincing as the exterior. However, in our age, the poet feels the necessity of creating a more convincing exterior in order to induce an impression of interior values.

In the course of his lecture, Mr. Spender read selections from Keats, Jarrell, Eliot, and Spender. His attempts to clarify an issue extremely significant in the field of modern poetry were enjoyed and greatly appreciated by all those present at the lecture.

Eloise Moore

Faculty Concert

The carriage barn was filled to capacity on Wednesday evening, April 7th, for the first faculty concert of this semester. Miss Pernel, Mr. Finckel and Mr. DeGray were the participants in a program which included Beethoven, Faure, Bach and Franck.

The concert began with Beethoven's Trio Op. 70 No. 2 in four movements. Although each movement was distinct in subject matter, and each contained its own special qualities, the over-all impression of the Trio was of the skillful and slightly humorous interplay between the three parts, and an almost continuous flow of energy and youthful vigor, which made it a happy choice as an opening number.

The Trio was followed by Gabriel Faure's Elegie, and a chorale by J. S. Bach, both for cello and piano. Faure wrote the Elegie, Mr. DeGray explained, in memory of a son, very dear to him, who had died at the age of fifteen. It is on the whole a moving piece; but the expression of intense personal feeling is always difficult to relay without producing a certain uneasiness in others and the Elegie occasionally becomes somewhat embroiled where restraint might have been as effective.

The Bach setting for the Lutheran chorale is short, simple and very lovely. Mr. Finckel played both with a broad singing tone, which was eloquent in the Faure, yet direct and melodious in the Bach.

Last on the program was Sonata in A major by Cesar Franck, the only violin and piano sonata he wrote. Differentiation between movements seems of less importance to Franck than the impression of the organic whole. There is always an inner variation, particularly noticeable in the first two movements. There is a constant swell and decrease of tone which recalls the fact that Franck was an organist and that much of his writing was for church performance. That, too, is evident in the third movement, where he seems to combine romantic and religious intensity. The last movement has more obvious continuity than the others. Playing up its melody with broad, bold tone, Miss Pernel and Mr. DeGray seemed to make one tremendous sweep from beginning to end, taking the audience right along with them. The concert was a fine beginning to this semester's program.

Non-Resident Term Jobs Varied and Fruitful

(Continued from page 2)

in the Niagara Falls Little Theater, started and directed by Edward Thommen. "I think I learned most of all about group relationships," Joan said, "and also about the organization of a little theater group." They had much administrative work to do at first to get the venture under way, before they began production work. Sue added that it was a fascinating experience to see the group take shape and acquire vitality and strength. Neither could say enough about Mr. Thommen's work and achievements in the Little Theater. He hopes eventually to have both a summer and a winter season there.

The productions they gave were *Kind Lady*, by Chodorov, *School for Scandal*, in which Joan starred, and *The Torch-bearers*.

Margot Starr also worked in theatrical productions, stage managing Leo G. Carroll's production of *Angel Street* in Winter Park, Florida, and then starring in Shaw's *Saint Joan* at Hamilton College, Clinton, New York. Margot, who considers *Saint Joan* a deeply moving play, said that working in it was an immensely rewarding, though difficult, job. A highlight of the performance was reached, she thought, when a woman fainted after her big cathedral scene the second night. As well as her work in the play, Margot confessed she enjoyed being the only girl among the six hundred male Hamilton students!

Research For Jacques Barzun

Quite different work was done by Elizabeth Brown, who assisted Jacques Barzun on a book on Berlioz. She did research and some criticism of the manuscript for him. "He was a perfect dynamo," Chickie said, "and I had to get every detail just right." The thing that impressed her most about him was his great energy. "He expected as much effort from me," Chickie added, "or else he would get almost angry." In addition to her job with Barzun, she worked on her thesis, a series of short stories.

Anne Landis had still another kind of employment. She worked in a candy factory in Boston, first on a belt and then packaging the candy. In order to avoid any difficulties, she didn't tell anyone at the factory that she was a college student. This way, she said, she made friends easily with her fellow-workers. "I really learned a lot about the differences and similarities between college girls and the girls I worked with," she said, adding that a lot of the differences seemed to her to be superficial.

Gertrude Yang spent her winter in Trenton, New Jersey, in the office of the Governor of that state. While much of her work was merely typing, she had many opportunities to attend the meetings of the Legislature, and to get a birdseye view of politics in action. The insight gained from this "backstage" view into a political machine seems to her to be the most outstanding result of her job.

Facing Stark Realities

(Continued from page 2)

(This, we gather, was not exactly the case.) In the first reel, she was swept off her feet by Jose Iturbi, who seemed a little uneasy at the fact that he was not permitted to hide behind a screen name, but had to conduct all of his proposing (and orchestras) while being addressed as Mr. Iturbi.

The daughters did not take kindly to this new addition to the family. They were convinced that if they could get their father home from China or Tibet, where he was a foreign correspondent, their mother would promptly realize that Jose is just a fling.

To bring about this reconciliation, they managed to secure the aid of Edward Arnold, who portrayed a rather benevolent William Randolph Hearst. (This illusion is partly maintained by frequent references to the absent ex-husband as "a combination of Hercules, Apollo, and General MacArthur.")

At six minutes to nine, Vermont Standard Time, the ex-husband was on his way home from China (or Tibet); the three revoltingly sweet daughters had renounced their mother and Jose; Jose, himself, had grown a little sick of the three dears, and giving up the whole idea as a bad job, had thrown himself back into his work. Jeanette was looking around frantically for Nelson, and the audience got up for its second round of candy bars.

However, by 9:05, we were out of the theatre, a little confused, but satisfied by the reassuring last scene of Jose, Jeanette, and the three dears, sitting at a piano and singing their finale.

I am still not certain as to how the difficulties were resolved so rapidly, but that, I imagine, is the charm of Hollywood.

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(Continued from page 2)

am not the most graceful person in the world the curtsy worried me considerably. I was always being discovered standing in an empty room curtsying to an imaginary Princess.

As the Royalty had been invited for six o'clock, everyone else had to be there by five-thirty. It is customary for everyone to arrive before royalty so we were taking no chances. The first quality that we all noticed about them was their complete naturalness. After I recovered from the initial fright of the curtsy and the "how do you do, M'am", everything was fine. Princess Elizabeth is really quite lovely. She is much prettier than the newspaper pictures make her out to be. One feels in talking to her that she is really what one always imagined a Princess to be. Her husband, the Duke of Edinburgh, is very charming. His great asset is his gaiety and informality. He has an excellent sense of humor and his stock of corny jokes is endless. Princess Margaret is in some respects the least formal of the three. She has all the fun of royal life without the responsibility. She was so friendly that I said "Margaret, would you like a drink?" without realizing that no one is allowed to call her anything but "Ma'm." There was a sickly pause, then everyone began talking at once, and I crept out of view. The second time I met them was when the three came for buffet dinner. Dinner was fantastic. I sat at a card table with the Duke on my left and the Marquis of Milford-Haven on my right. I thought it would be a formal gathering but I quickly changed my mind when the Duke said "Do you mind if I ask you a very personal question?" I, of course, said "no". To my great surprise he said, "How do you keep that dress up, by elastic or what?" From then on, although I continued to call him "Sir," it was hardly formal. After dinner we all played "The Game". Princess Elizabeth was excellent. Her team, however, was very stupid and she almost went crazy trying to make them understand. The rest of the evening was spent in playing ridiculous parlour games which were great fun. After sitting cross-legged on the floor and passing objects around a circle to Princess Elizabeth I lost my awe, but certainly not my respect for Royalty. Throughout the evening, they all maintained a certain dignity which portrayed their strict upbringing, and awareness of their present and future responsibility.

Oxford Excursion

Admirers of Evelyn Waugh would have envied me my trip to Oxford. We were visiting two English boys when we met character straight out of "Brideshead Revisited". I was only slightly taken aback when I was warned that he affected the flowing, wind-blown hair style. But it was nothing to my shock when he made his entrance with maroon suit, green shirt, and a green velvet necktie. He was renowned to be Oxford's most brilliant student.

Oxford itself has an old world quality all its own which makes one feel completely out of touch with the rest of the world. It is quite an awe-inspiring feeling to realize that college students have been studying there for hundreds of years.

Churchill at House of Commons

One experience I shall never forget was attending a session of the House of Commons. Luckily, I went the day Mr. Churchill was speaking. He was answering a speech given the previous day by Mr. Bevin concerning Britain's Foreign Policy. It was one of the few times that he heartily supported Mr. Bevin's stand. He spoke beautifully and interspersed his speech with many humorous bits. At one time when he was advocating mending the quarrels between the Conservatives and the Labor Party he said, "Let us leave it all to history—particularly as I plan to write that history myself." The House of Commons, as well as the House of

Lords, typifies what is known as "traditional England." The entrance of the members reminded me of a scene from Gilbert and Sullivan's "Iolanthe". The procession was led by a man in black kneebreeches wearing a short white wig. He was followed by the Speaker of the House and two members in long black robes wearing long white wigs. The manner in which the speeches were presented offered a sharp contrast to the stately ceremoniousness of the entrance. Whenever the members approved a particular point there were loud "hear hear's". Interruptions were frequently heard when a member disagreed. Even during Mr. Churchill's speech members rose in protest or interrupted to ask a question.

Job at WVS

I have so far described only the highlights of my visit. What I felt was most important was simply living in a foreign country. Usually, when travelling, one seldom stays in one place long enough to even begin to get to know the customs and the people. It was my job that brought me into contact with the British people. I worked in the Headquarters of the Women's Voluntary Services in London. The actual work was routine, including wrapping food parcels, addressing envelopes, filing, and the like. The department in which I worked was called "Empire and Foreign". It took care of all food and clothing sent from abroad, including that from America. It was very exciting to see packages arrive from people I knew at home. Although the organization is a volunteer one, those with limited incomes have their expenses (transportation, food) paid for them.

Attitude Toward an American

It was a strange feeling, being an American in such a strictly British organization. I must say I enjoyed (and now miss) elevenses (coffee and rolls at 11:00 A. M.) and afternoon tea. The strangest part, however, was almost being personified as America. Many of the women had never met an American and they were fascinated by my clothes, my speech, and particularly my descriptions of America. It got rather embarrassing when they would come up and thank me for the lovely food I had sent. I gained a real understanding of how much what we send abroad means to people when I saw the people themselves and how grateful they were.

I do not mean to say that I saw starving people. As a matter of fact, living at the Embassy brought me into contact with very few people who had even approached hunger. But for the very poor person in England today it is hard with the slim rations to get enough to eat. The meat ration, for example, is only comparable to one chop a week. For those who can afford to eat out a few nights a week, the food problem is not acute, but it is the poor who are really hard hit. During my entire visit I never heard one person complain of the shortages and certainly some of them had reason to.

The whole trip was like living in another world. The people, although they spoke the same language, seemed quite different. I don't think I'd want to live forever in England but for two months it certainly was a "jolly good show".

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Interview With Stephen Spender

(Continued from page 3)

Spender, is a very dangerous one. This girl had her eyes opened so wide that she tended to become anti-American. There are lots of these girls, said Mr. Spender, who come from wealthy families and attend highly progressive schools, and then go shooting around the world in search of liberal and progressive people. When they come into contact with such groups, they are wholly sympathetic and even enter into the opinions of these groups. Then they go back to America and resume their former place in society. "It's very easy for them," said Mr. Spender, "to have their cake and eat it too. Actually," he continued, "they may very well be aiding a dictatorship with the very best of intentions. It's very dangerous to go off the deep end about a progressive cause without realizing all that's involved," he concluded, hitting at one of the weakest points in the current student ideology.

American and British Poets

"What do you think of the American poets?" I asked.

"I like Cummings very much," he said, "and Jarrell, Lowell and perhaps Shapiro."

"Do you find them very different from the British poets?" I asked.

Mr. Spender looked thoughtful. "Yes," he mused, "quite different. The best tendency in American writing is the fixation on external things, when things are being described. That's in the best American tradition all the way down from Walt Whitman. You know, the emphasis on the concrete. Yes, the American poets are best when they're using their eyes."

Mr. Spender went on to say that the British poets were rather dreamlike; that their poetry was absorbed into this dreamy state.

"We're often criticized by the Americans for our lack of concreteness in poetry," he said.

I inquired as to any suggestions Mr. Spender might have for struggling young poets.

"Revision for one thing," he said promptly. "I never write a poem less than thirty times."

EPC Election Results

Since there were only two old EPC members left from last term, it was necessary that regular election procedures be waived and that emergency elections be held before the rest of the Community Government elections. There is a great deal of work to be done and it is impossible and impractical to wait until the new by-laws are passed.

EPC went ahead with last year's plan to have two representatives in the Social Studies Field: one from Political Economy and one from Social Science; and two in the Drama-Dance Field: one from Drama and one from Dance. This enlarges the committee to eight. The EPC feels that it should be free to have as many girls, representing special lines within a field, as is necessary. **This does not** indicate that the major fields are splitting into divisions and that the divisions that exist are not integrated. It is simply a matter of convenience to make discussion, planning and seminars run smoothly.

The election results are as follows: Social Science, Sally Liberman; Political Economy, Patton Galloway; Drama, Kathrynne Ballantyne; Dance, Barbara Birch; Music, Marcia Ireland; Art, Eleanor Cohen; Science, Rita Gillette; Literature, Carol Black.

I choked slightly.

"Also, earning your living," he continued. "Having to earn your living as a writer tends to involve you in a lot of experiences which dissipate your energies."

"Oh yes," he said, "and don't ever write for a public, a critic or a publisher. Write for yourself, as if each poem were intended for the wastebasket. It's really not so hard to be a young poet." He smiled and stood up. "It's when you're old that it begins to be hard." Mr. Spender put down his empty glass and buttoned his trenchcoat.

"Mr. Spender," I began, searching frantically in the pockets of my coat. "It just so happens that I have a little thing here that I wrote . . . and I wonder if . . ."

I looked up in time to see his tall figure disappearing down the hall.

Ellen Denson

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