

# Graduates Enjoy Successful Homecoming

## Muriel Rahn Appears For Grads

Miss Muriel Rahn, the noted American soprano who was presented here in concert on Friday, February 20, 1948, under the sponsorship of the Alumnae Association, was born in Boston, Massachusetts. Miss Rahn's education was one of great interest and variety, for she first entered school in New York, completed high school requirements at Tuskegee Institute in Tuskegee, Alabama, spent her first two years of college at Lane University in Jackson, Tennessee, and received her B. A. degree in Music Education from the University of Nebraska. Immediately following this, Miss Rahn became an instructor of music in Winston-Salem high school.

As a youngster, Miss Rahn had contemplated a career as an artistic dancer, but it was then that she first encountered personal experience with the race issue, for she came to realize that the opportunities of success in the artistic dance world were almost nil for a Negro. It was then, too, that she resolved to use the few weapons in her possession to better racial relationships. As a result, her talents were absorbed in music.

Now that Miss Rahn has had the opportunity of coming in direct contact with the major race problems, mainly underpayment in the teaching profession, plus the lack of facilities needed for the same work, she decided to perfect her one principal weapon, her lovely voice. She did so by going abroad for further study beginning a life of strict vocal concentration under the tutorage of a well-known voice specialist, Charpentier. It was not long before she was fully equipped with poise and ability that she returned to the United States, prepared to face an American public successfully.

Since that time, Miss Rahn has been a flourishing success in the musical world and has appeared in the title role of the theatrical production of Carmen Jones. During World War II, the government called upon her excellent talents in Bond rallies, which were all a stupendous success. Now, she is making a series of concert tours which carry her to all parts of the world, and it is in this form that she is able to use her voice and magnetic personality as weapons to break down racial prejudice and injustice.

When Miss Rahn was questioned as to which part of the South she thought to be the most progressive, she said that North Carolina, in her view, had shown greater advancement than any of the other southern states, particularly in its provisions of educational facilities for Negroes. She went further to say that the day of equality was not far off, and if our people were to fulfill prosperously their rightful places in society, they must be properly trained now.

In private life, Miss Rahn is Mrs. Campbell, the wife of her manager, Mr. Dick Campbell. She has done a very successful job of combining matrimony with a career, for the Campbells have been happily married for fifteen years. Never has she spent a Christmas away from her husband.

It isn't very often that Miss Rahn has time for socializing, but she is a lifetime member of the Delta Sigma Theta sorority, and has always, whenever possible, tried to attend the Kappa Carnival in New York.

Miss Rahn has only one word of advice as an experienced artist to give to those who some day wish to

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## Congresswoman Speaks to Students

Mrs. Helen Gahagan Douglas, representative from California, on Sunday February 15, 1948, during the chapel hour, delivered an enlightening address about American politics as regards the American people.

Mrs. Douglas urged that we utilize our American heritage by voting and by urging others to vote. She mentioned that the voice of the people is heard although it may seem to be drowned in the hubbub of politics.

In order to cast an intelligent ballot, Mrs. Douglas said that we should keep as well informed as possible on the platforms and activities of those in power. Further we should find out the more local facts, about city and state governments so we will be able to recognize what needs to be done on the national front in order to affect in a favorable way what is done locally.

Mrs. Douglas stressed that we make our dissatisfaction with laws and rulings known by writing to our representatives and senators. She mentioned that the number of letters a congressman receives on an issue may greatly influence his vote on that issue because it is the expression by the people, who control his political position.

The United Nations Assembly, Mrs. Douglas said, is the one great hope in the world for peace in the world. She urged that we have faith in this organization although the way seems dark at present. Mrs. Douglas compared the government of Russia, the other great political force in the world, with that of the United States. She pointed out that Russia is now a "policed state" and that in spite of her great advances in the development of her vast resources, Russia has made these advances by employing the dangerous method of limiting her people's freedom. Here in America it is true, unfortunately, that all do not share in the freedom, but nevertheless it is the people who have the say in who will govern them and how they will be governed. These then are the forces which will either iron out their differences peaceably or create chaos in a world already torn by recent war.

So, Mrs. Douglas urged that each person should first, be informed, vote, and have faith in the result of their votes.

## New Plans For Student Elections

We have come again to the time of the year when officers for the ensuing year are to be elected. Feeling that the students do not take enough interest in the election of officers the Student Senate has several new plans in mind. However, any plan used will need the full cooperation of the student body.

It has been proposed that each person who would like to run for a certain office would file an application. The three persons best suited for each office would be stated as candidates. The persons stated would be chosen by a committee on the basis of character, scholarship, and ability.

The candidates will each represent a particular party, give campaign speeches, and thus get her supporters. Other ideas are being worked upon by the cabinet. However, the Student Senate would appreciate any suggestions or ideas from any member of the student body toward making the forth coming elections effective.

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## Representative of Swedish Labor Visits

Both students and faculty were privileged to hear as one of our recent chapel speakers Mrs. Elsa B. Marcuson. This young woman is originally from Osla, Norway but since her recent marriage is living in Stockholm, Sweden. Mrs. Marcuson is a representative of the Swedish labor party and daily newspaper and is in America gathering data to write stories on what Americans feel today and how they live.

One of the important points of her address was her explanation of the Swedish health program. This program allows a certain amount of security from illness to every person in the country. Sweden has extensive plans for the security of old people and children.

In a short interview Mrs. Marcuson stated that her opinion of America may not be justified as she has only been in New York and her trip to Greensboro was her first trip South. However, she has concluded from her short observations that Americans are definitely interested in labor unions and organized labor. However, she was surprised to find that labor does not in a measure control politics. In Sweden as opposed to America, laborers are interested in politics.

After leaving Bennett Mrs. Marcuson plans an extended trip throughout the United States. On completion of this trip she will return to Sweden and thus begin a series of articles on what she has observed in America.

**The Bennett Banner wishes to announce that the April issue of the paper will be a literary issue. It will be your issue containing your creative works. Original short stories, poems and essays by various students will be published. This is not limited to those students in the English field. If in your science, history, home economics, or other classes you have done something interesting or unusual, the rest of the students would be glad to know about it. Have you any unusual art work that we could print? We would be glad to use anything which shows your creative ability.**

**Your wholehearted cooperation is needed to make this venture a success. If you are interested in contributing to this issue, please contact some member of the staff before March 20. May we depend on you?**

## Virginia Jeffries Attends BKX Confab

Representing the Alpha Zeta chapter of Bennett College, Virginia Jeffries, senior and major in Biology, attended the regional conference of the Beta Kappa Chi Scientific Society held at Morgan State College February 6th. Fourteen chapters of the Eastern District were represented.

The two sessions of the conference were highlighted with the presentation of papers by the chapters dealing in scientific problems chiefly related to present-day discoveries. The morning and afternoon sessions were presided over by Dr. W. J. L. Wallace, of West Virginia State College, and Dr. George Spaulding, of Morgan, respectively. Greetings to the society were extended by Dr. D. O. W. Holmes, president of Morgan. Appreciation was rendered by Dr. Victor J. Tulane, national president.

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Enjoying an "old times" chat after vespers are, left to right: Misses Annie L. Gist, '46; Edwina Martin, '45; Janet White, '46, and Mrs. Ivory Wilson, '47.

## Plans For Revision of Education Department

After careful consideration the members of the education department have concluded that there is a definite need for a revision of the education setup here on the campus. The present plan has not adequately met the needs of all the students. Various weak spots have been found and so a committee has set about to see just what can be done about it.

One of the main weaknesses of the present plan is the system of practice teaching. Many of the practice teachers find themselves carrying a double load. They are expected to keep up with class work on the campus and also have stimulating and interesting plans for the students which they teach. Also, many of the student teachers find that they are required to teach subjects that they know almost nothing about. The length of time which the student teaches is really not sufficient, and so she leaves her class not having gained as much from this experience as she could have. Most student teachers also find that they are well equipped with theory but have little practical knowledge which is so vitally important.

Thus a committee has been suggested to work on this issue. Various suggestions have been offered. It has been suggested that all the education be combined into two-year courses. These courses will include such educational studies as introduction to education, tests and measurements, methods, and are phases of education. Effort is being made to give the student teacher an entire semester in which she will have no other responsibilities. It has been suggested that the head of each department approve each individual before she is allowed to begin her student teaching.

The committee will continue its investigations into this vital issue and thus offer to the college a new and revised program for its future teachers.

## Students Welcome Weekly Social Hour

A far more interesting Saturday afternoon can now be anticipated instead of the usual bored, lost feeling brought on by a completely free afternoon with nothing to do. The Junior class has taken care of this by sponsoring a social hour on Saturday.

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## Record Number of Graduates Return

This year, the annual Homecoming events, beginning Friday, February twentieth, and ending Sunday, February twenty-second, were anticipated with much expectation and enthusiasm. The highest hopes of entertainment on behalf of the student body to be brought about by the presence of our Bennett Sisters met unrestrained fulfillment.

The activities were graciously ushered in by Miss Muriel Rahn, a noted American soprano, who was presented in concert under the sponsorship of the Alumnae Association on Friday evening, February twentieth, at eight o'clock. Following the concert, the Graduates and Seniors were graced with a formal dance in Thirkield Gymnasium, lasting from ten p. m. until two a. m. Even though we were not all allowed to attend the momentous occasion, its immense success was an added enjoyment to us all.

On Saturday afternoon, the Graduates, along with the celebrities, were entertained at the Birthday Dinner, and once again we were enthralled by the presence of our Big Sisters, for they increased its success and enjoyment a hundredfold as each member, starting with the class of '31, through the class of '47, gave a cheerful word of greeting and encouragement. These remarks, coupled with the witty and fatherly comments of our beloved father of the Bennett Family, President Jones, produced one of the most successful affairs of this type in many years.

Later Saturday evening, we were given still another treat. At the pleasure of the Graduates, a basketball game was played between the Students and a representation of the Alumnae Association, a game that will be long remembered with its spectacular and fast-moving players. Although the final score was 32-18 in favor of the students, every one left feeling alive and refreshed.

Very sadly, Sunday morning, vespers brought a stirring close to this glorious week-end of Family Reunion. The services were conducted entirely by the Graduates. Those who were on the Marshal Board resumed their duties, and those who were in the choir rendered the situation in an eloquent and masterful manner. As the services drew to an end with the choir singing the three-fold Amen, so ended the reunion of many, many happy hearts, hoping to meet again this time next year.