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A Plea For Liberalism

In our country today, there is a trend toward conservatism so strong that it threatens to usurp even the traditional liberalism of college youth. Educational institutions, as strong-holds of liberal thought, have long been regarded as a source of progressive leadership. The reactionary and conservative influences in our nation at the present are frightening enough, but how dark must our outlook be if we can not look to a future free of their menace! We can not hope for such a future unless we college students keep the spirit of liberalism alive.

Here at Bennett there is a need for a re-awakening, for new enthusiasm. The International Relations Club is being allowed to die a slow death. Is all this discussion about the importance of knowing the peoples of other nations just a farce, or is our good-will being undermined by conservatism? Whatever the answer, the I. R. C. should be revived. We have the leadership. We have the initiative. Why don't we use it?

How many students belong to the Southern Conference of Human Welfare? For that matter, how many students know that there is a chapter on the campus? It is every girl's business to know! More of us should belong to this social action group, find out what is going on, and join forces with liberalism! If the group is doing something, and perhaps it is, get in there with some new ideas, with some fresh enthusiasm; get in there and keep it going!

There are not many students taking part in the activities of the Inter-Collegiate Commission either. This group, however, is making some real accomplishments. Because of the efforts of the inter-racial organization, Negro students may now rent books from the Book Shop. Attempts are being made to persuade the other book stores in town to adopt this new policy.

The Commission is also conducting a workshop in which the students work on projects according to their special interests. These projects have been chosen because the students believe that, through them, they may make some concrete contributions to the improvement of society. The current projects are concerned with recreation for underprivileged children, and the improvement of inter-collegiate activities.

I have mentioned only a few of the organizations which might stimulate and help to maintain liberal thinking on this campus. You can find more. Let's join some of them and help to stem the tide of conservatism which threatens to engulf us!

GWEN ALEXANDER.

To Fill The Gap

The American student stands in a peculiarly aloof position. He has little contact with his fellow students on American campuses and he has little contact with students in Europe. His horizons are drawn on narrow lines, both at home and abroad. With others, the intellectual exchange is slight and cooperative action negligible.

We have a chance now to rectify this deficient position. The gap in student life in this country has the opportunity to be filled by the birth of a national student union, which would strive for the very qualities and activities lacking today.

Colleges from the forty-eight states are being asked to send delegates to a conference in Chicago where plans will be made for such organization. The delegates will consider the type of body which they think students want and will then hand over the mandate to a constitutional committee.

When a national student union is established, it will fill the double role of a cohesive force in the American university community and the American link in the international union of students.

It should be understood that participation at Chicago does not commit a college to join any national student union which subsequently might be established. Our role now is only aid in the formation of the organization. In the light, however, of the democratic basis of the conference and the mandate which will be laid down for the constitutional committee—a mandate which will be wrought by all delegates.

The validity and necessity of goals, as foreseen at present, cannot be denied. As students remain now, they are a nonentity as a group in this country; they can become an important entity by virtue of a national organization. The country needs the force and aid of students, and students themselves need other students.

Excerpts reprinted from the *Smith College Associated News*.
(Friday, Nov. 15, 1946).

Reader's Retreat

MRS. PALMER'S HONEY
By Fannie Cook

Lately the American public has been flooded with books attempting to give an intelligent treatment to the Negro problem in this country. Most of them, such as "Strange Fruit" by Lillian Smith, and "The Street" by Ann Petry, have been a bit morbid and depressing. At last we have a novel suggesting a practical solution to a difficult problem.

Mrs. Palmer's Honey is the story of a young Negro girl in a Southern town who leaves her job as a maid to work in a war plant. It is in the plant that she comes in contact with the C. I. O. and its attempts to unionize in the South. Its efforts to bring about the cooperation of the various workers of both races begins to have a definite effect on Honey. She finds that she can no longer live from day to day in her own little world, shutting out from her sphere of interest, all that does not concern her immediate existence. Gradually she realizes that she must think not merely in terms of her race as a whole, but also the relation of her race to other races.

The story moves swiftly and smoothly. The interest is sustained not so much because of the rapidity of the action, but because of the depth and clarity of the character portrayals. Not only are they well defined, but they are completely natural — so natural that you may recognize people you see every day. You may even recognize yourself. There is the tight-mouthed, narrow-minded Southern woman; the somewhat rare liberal well-to-do Southern gentleman; the hypocritically sweet, blundering, but well-meaning middle-class white woman; and the energetic, persevering northern liberal or radical. The Negro characters are just as interesting. There are the docile, untroubled, old Negro people, resigned to unfair treatment; the fiery, bitter, confused, younger men and women, fighting their destiny with intensity and bitterness, without organization or forethought; and those who are ashamed of their race, grasping for consolation at such superficial signs of superiority as "white man's hair," and paler skins.

Altogether, an excellent cross-section of characters is represented—characters whose lighter moments will make you laugh, and whose frequent moments of unhappiness will make you want to cry.

Inquiring Reporter

If you had your choice of any of the fine character traits by which human beings are judged, which would you choose as the most important?

Ruth Bradley: I prefer honesty, because then I would naturally possess all the other fine qualities.

Velma Love: Kindness—because I think that by being kind, others will be kind to me, and through this kindness they would help me to develop the other traits that make for good character.

Bernice Campbell: Intelligence. If I have intelligence I will be able to apply it to my concepts of right and wrong. Possessing this intelligence and applying it to my daily life, the other traits would be mine.

Velma Hayes: All of the traits that make for fine character are extremely important. Sincerity, however, strikes me most—wherever this quality is prevalent, there is marked evidence of kindness, honesty, and many of the other qualities linked with it.

Louise Bonner: My preference would be perseverance because with this quality of "stick-to-it-tiveness" I would be more capable of developing all the other traits.

What! When! Where!

The Southern Conference for Human Welfare: A large Bennett chapter joins with the chapter from Woman's College, University of North Carolina, to form the Greensboro Student group. What are they doing? Protest letters are to be written against Columbians, Inc., the new hate group. Petitions are being circulated to oust Bilbo from the United States Senate—why don't you sign? This organization is also selling "Oust Bilbo" pins. As you sign a petition, purchase one. The minimum is ten cent—you set the maximum!

Interpretive Dance Group: Interpretive dance class meets Monday nights at 7:00; Wednesday nights at 9:00, and Saturday mornings at 11. Develop your assets—the class proves to be both interesting and beneficial to physical development.

French Room: To be in the basement of Kent Hall, so keep your eyes open! Good "Parlez vous" experience for French students — recordings by Jon Sablin.

Sociology Club: Has some very interesting speakers at intervals. Wonder if you are interested in attending any of these programs? Well, if you are—watch the bulletin boards for the "who, what, when, and where!"

Organization Basketball Teams: Each organization on the campus is to have a basketball team. The purpose of this plan is to prolong the fall inter-mural basketball tournament sponsored by the W. A. A.

Home Economics Club: Plans to carry skits to the dormitories on the campus. Purpose: To increase student awareness of the correct table manners. How about a hundred per cent on student cooperation!

Bennett Banner: If you can write, type, or any of the other millions of things you do on a college paper staff—come on out to Bennett Banner meetings on Wednesdays at 7:45, Bennett Banner Room, Jones Hall.

Congratulations to
Miss Barbara Ware
and
Mr. David Holland

FACULTY CLOSEUP

Mr. Chauncey Winston comes to Bennett College having just completed a year of study at Indiana University. He was formerly a teacher of science and civics at Atkins high school, in Winston-Salem, N. C.

A native of Tappahannock, Va., Mr. Winston is the son of a former Baptist minister and the brother of Mrs. Naomi Jeter, a former home economics teacher at Bennett. He spent the initial thirteen years of his life at home and commenced his high school studies in the high school department of Virginia State College. Partly because he disliked Latin so much, Mr. Winston chose agriculture as his special field at Virginia State. Later, however, he found that he would be required to study Latin when he entered Fisk University. He entered Fisk with the hope of becoming a doctor, but because of financial conditions and ill health, he again changed his major—this time to education. He later entered the State University in Columbus, Ohio, where he received his M. S. degree in Education. Since then, he has further studied at Indiana University and the State University, where he has completed all of the residence requirements for the doctorate degree.

His teaching interest procured for

Student of the Month

As Interviewed By
Gwen Alexander

Miss Sylvia Rock, a sophomore from Montclair, New Jersey, has been chosen student of the month because of her poetic ability. Miss Rock has the distinction of being the first Bennett student to have an original poem accepted for publication by the National Association of College Anthology. Her poem, "Beloved Dead," will be published in the third annual edition of *College Anthology*.

A friendly, carefree person, Miss Rock answered my question readily. She said that she had been writing poetry since she was in the third grade. Until the present time most of it has been published only in school papers.

Miss Rock gave an interesting account of the way in which she writes poetry. It just "comes out of the clear blue sky," she said. She explained that she feels an inner urge to write, a sort of signal that a poem is to be born, about three days before she actually writes it. She cannot tell just when the vague shapes in her mind will crystallize into actual thoughts; therefore, she carries a pencil and paper about all the time. Finally, the idea takes shape and she begins to write. About three-fourths of the poem will come to her in exactly the right way. The last part usually needs to be improved.

When questioned, Miss Rock admitted that she can write poetry at will, but that "forced" poetry requires a great deal of time and effort.

Strangely enough, Miss Rock does not especially like to read poetry. She enjoys the works of only two poets, Carl Sandburg and Langston Hughes. She admires their free, easy style.

Majoring in English and History, Miss Rock is active in the following organizations: Y. W. C. A., W. S. C. S., Sociology Club, Senior Choir, Little Theater Guild, and French Club. Her hobbies are writing poetry and reading. Thorne Smith's books are her favorites, but she also enjoys historical novels.

Her ambition is, first, to be an author of poetry and short stories, and second, to be a housewife. When pressed for an explanation, she said that marriage is a long way off. She wants to "enjoy life first."

him the position of teacher's assistant for five years in the Educational department of the Indiana University.

He is a member of the Alpha chapter of the Phi Delta Kappa fraternity, National Honorary Education Society at Indiana University, and was Basileus to the Omega Psi Phi fraternity for the Winston - Salem chapter.

Debating is one of Mr. Winston's avocations, having won several prizes from contests on temperance subjects. He is interested in dramatics, also, having directed several adult community plays in a dramatic tournament in Winston-Salem. For one year, he served as chairman of the Public Relations committee for the Winston - Salem Teachers Association.

Commenting on our campus life, Mr. Winston says he is very much impressed by the clean and well kept conditions of the campus as well as the cultural atmosphere. In his opinion, Bennett's attempt to get away from the old educational methods to the more functional type of education is evidenced in the Freshmen social science studies, the advisory system, contemporary affairs, program emphasis on student participation and the general democratic spirit here. He appreciates, very much, the cooperative spirit of his co-workers and also the various accommodations for teachers.