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Jack Barsness appointed director of 1960 Writers' Conference

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The appointment of Jack Barsness as director of the Montana State University 1960 Writers’ Conference and visiting member of the MSU English faculty for spring quarter was announced Wednesday by Dr. Vedder M. Gilbert, chairman of the MSU English Department. Barsness will be on leave from the Montana State College staff to carry out his dual assignment at MSU.

The 1960 Writers' Conference, slated for May 25 through 28 on the MSU campus, will be staffed principally by Northwest writers and will emphasize regional work, Dr. Gilbert said.

The conference was scheduled for May rather than the traditional summer dates to make it easier for more persons to attend, especially students at MSU and other schools in the region, whose vacation employment plans might conflict with a summer conference, according to Dr. Gilbert. Timing the event for a long weekend should also enable many other persons to take advantage of the conference, he pointed out.

Barsness was Henry Larom's choice as interim director of the conference until the University can obtain a permanent director, Dr. Gilbert said. Larom directed the conference from 1952 until 1959, when he resigned to accept the deanship of Rockland Community College, Rockland County, N. Y.

Barsness received an M. A. degree in English from MSU in 1951. He served on the staff of the MSU Writers’ Conference in 1958. Currently, he is assistant professor of English at MSC.

Dr. Gilbert said further information about the conference can be obtained by writing to: MSU Writers' Conference, English Department, Montana State University, Missoula.

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