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Kenyon Collegian - June 16, 1944

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COLLEGIAN

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Gambier, Ohio.

June 16, 1944.

BIG DANCE PLANNED FOR COMMENCEMENT WEEK-END

ASSEMBLY SPEAKERS

Beginning Friday, June 23 and lasting until Sunday, June 25 Kenyon College will play host at its famous "Dance Week-End". Last Monday the Student Council met and drew up plans for what appears to be an enjoyable time.

On Friday night at 8:45 P.M. all students will congregate before Peirce Hall, the starting place for the Hay-Ride. With good weather the plans call for the ride and evening to last until 11:30. The Council strongly urges that all dates be escorted home by 12:00 or shortly thereafter.

Saturday's official program begins with Kenyon's Sixth Special War-Time Commencement. The Commencement will take place from 3:00 P.M. to 4:00. Immediately following the Commencement a "glash-party" at the pool will be held. It will last until 5:30 P.M. A fruit cocktail in the lounge of Peirce Hall will precede a buffet dinner in the Commons at 8:30 P.M. Dancing will follow the dinner and continue until approximately 11. Divisional parties are optional but all such activities must close by a reasonable hour.

These plans of the Council will provide ample opportunity for all of us to forget the books and relax for once. Those of the student body who have not as yet signed the dance registration sheet are urged to do so now. Let's really make this a "big" time for all.

Lieutenant Commander John Scott of the Royal Naval Volunteer Service was assembly speaker on Friday, June 2. Lieutenant Commander Scott has been on anti-submarine duty in British Mediterranean, and Atlantic waters since the war began. His experiences have been numerous and exciting. He told of the days in which he served on a yacht which had been converted into a patrol boat, of the trawler of which he was captain during the tense days in the Mediterranean, and of the Corvette which helped in Atlantic convoying. He gave a clear picture of the function of the various ships in convoying and of the rough-and-ready life of today's sailors lead. Lieutenant Commander Scott's account of his experiences will not be easily forgotten; it has given us a close-up picture of this war more intimate and more lasting than any newspaper or movie ever could give.

The assembly speaker on Tuesday, June 13, was Dr. Charles Bumer, head of the Kenyon mathematics department. Dr. Bumer, besides being a mathematician of note, is an accomplished pianist. He spoke on the unique relationship between mathematics and music. He said that both mathematics and music make rational use of forms to express ideas.

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For the past few weeks there has been prevalent a characteristic on the campus which we must get rid of quickly. This trait is not unique among most groups; it appears as though everyone complains about everyone else. Recently an unaffiliated article appeared which lamented the many "petty" differences, political and personal, current on the Hill. Although the COLLEGIAN is in accord with the main point of this anonymous literature; it does not believe that the situation is so hopeless as presumed; however, THE COLLEGIAN wishes to proceed further.

Yes, the college has experienced three weeks of intense and bitter feeling but this condition was to be expected. (Although one might question the extreme to which it has been carried.) "Hazing and rushing" have been part and parcel of life on Kenyon's campus for many years. The situation of today, however, presents new problems to Kenyon. "Rushing" now takes place five times during the calendar year as opposed to the past when "rushing" took place but one time during a year. This factor along with others accounts for so many of the perplexities we now face. These problems are real and important; we should face them honestly and maturely.

Once we ourselves recognize that a continual rehashing of our "petty" discrepancies will do us no good then the sooner we shall rid ourselves of them. Let's forget the "small" and concentrate on the essential. There are so many essentials which we have not considered. Let's think seriously and carefully about the future and the many opportunities it holds for all of us here at Kenyon. The "petty" past must be carted away like so much useless trash and the finer elements of the past be used as a foundation for

a profitable future. No one can deny us the future and we can make of it what we will.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

June 15, 1944

Dear Mr. Allen:

In answer to your letter of June 12 I noticed particularly the suggestions made in the last issue of the COLLEGIAN that many students would like to have horse-back riding made available to them again and that several are interested in reviving the International Relations Club.

With respect to the former, I am sorry to say that I see little possibility of restoring riding during the war as an extra curricular activity, as much as I should like to do so. Our horses were disposed of two years ago because it seemed impossible then as it does now to support the riding stable except at exorbitant cost. Captain Eberle would like very much to see the stable in operation again and I hope that it can be in the future, but the cost of maintaining horses with the services of a competent groom is, for the present, beyond either the college or the individuals who would like to ride, I am sure.

Concerning the International Relations Club, Professor Cahall is very enthusiastic about this and if there is a real desire on the part of a substantial number of students for this very worth-while program, it will be restored immediately after the beginning of the second half of the term. Professor Cahall will call a meeting of those interested during the week of June 26 and I hope that many who wish to concern themselves with this most important matter will join in the re-formation of the Club which has such a long and successful history before the war.

Yours sincerely,

Robert B. Brown

Dean of Students

NOTE TO THE STUDENT BODY:

During this coming week each of you will be approached by some member of THE COLLEGIAN staff. You will be asked questions as to the future of Kenyon College in the intellectual, social, political and spiritual. What do you think should be its future? What do you think will be its future? Prime your thought well and do not hesitate to express your opinions.

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Dance

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...and there was an American eagle on every plate

...so ever among us and our prattle drift
these phantom feathers from your voiceless wing,
as copper-clanging bells, sound-mute, will fling
their amber echoes back, till silence shift
in throbbing scrolls of silence...

the jades would sift,
over my tea, your rich philandering
--my eyes riposte while theirs, surmising, sting
my reticence

mine feint

their tea-cups lift:

(a lunge in tierce) "--I hear you knew him well."
(in quarte) "God's gift to women!"

--sullenly tolls
my heart's diastole whose echoes echoes swell
and ebb till silence shift in throbbing scrolls
of silence...

slashed to gobbets by these frumps
I'll mask my gibbering heart or die!

"--two lumps"

I could have been another Heloise,
had you been Abelard. If it be true
men fall by friends and not by enemies,
am I not less than Heloise and you
something more than Abelard? But no!
A scholar's coat cannot eke out a sin
or summer's sun give quarter to the snow.
I shall be I. You Abelard wears thin.

Here Abelard in straits of love, 'twere well
Here Heloise in splints of sentiment,
Heart without art had given up its spell,
For most men pity when they most consent.

Is it my fault that like the Cheshire cat
your smile erased itself upon my mat?

YOU₁; YOU₂

You are that day, that fugitive retreat
where Dore's faultless angles propaesy
through spokes of sun that wheel a whipped-cream sky
over strange woods...and Persian princes greet
lost sons and slant-eyed griffins plume their feet...
Where toy giraffes gape up and wonder why
they are so small and cherry trees so high,
and wood-choppers lurch homeward, glad to eat.

You are that night when nose against the pane
I weep the street-car home at five again...
doors bang, lamps flare...her apron-crying small,
his great voice crowd plush channels up the hall...
when supperless, I shiver on the stairs
beyond the hall-tree where they keep the bears.

---Mrs. Harold Whitehall

Mrs. Whitehall first started to rhyme in college and has since had many of her prize-winning poems published. When in college she majored in English dwelling on the Classics. Since then she has developed a fondness for the Moderns and has acquired a technique similar to them. She writes lyrics with a graceful ease, however. The majority of her work is with sonnets which reflect a spicy tang of Edna St. Vincent Millay.

For the past several years Mrs. Whitehall has been teaching at the University of Indiana with her husband. Mr. Whitehall is Kenyon's visiting professor of linguistics for this Summer term; he is also affiliated with the Kenyon Review.

THE FREE MAN

All human organizations have a certain trend towards degeneration. Political parties lose their old beliefs. As a result of these trends the cry for reform usually arises in the hope of getting back to the old ideas. The Church reform in the 16th century, an attempt to reestablish the old purity of the Church, was only one of a series of reforms of which the world consists. From 1837 through Victoria's reign in England Parliament passed reform laws on factory conditions, religious toleration, criminal law, and free trade. In America the tariff reform, slavery, woman suffrage, and prohibition were all great movements of reform. All of these movements were started and carried through by influential men... "heroes."

There are two kinds of heroes. One is the kind which tries to better the conditions (under the pretense of helping his fellows). The first gains recognition because he is approaching a purpose; the second gains recognition because that is his purpose. The earlier literary heroes were usually the champions of some cultural, social, or political movement. The hero of the modern novel, if there is one, is an ironical one; he is no champion. He fights a losing battle, because he can never free himself from the constraints of society. The only type of modern hero who gains recognition seldom gains the satisfaction of achieving a purpose. The satisfaction he gets is recognition

itself. The first hero gains happiness; the second gains frustration and futility in an unmanageable world.

Man's Fate, by Andre Malraux (published by Harrison, Smith, and Robert Haas, Inc., 1934), deals with this problem of heroes. In a civil war in China a group of terrorists are suddenly set free from servitude by the revolution. Ch'en, Kyo, and Katov are three of these terrorists. The first, Ch'en, is an interesting individual. He is assigned to obtain papers from a politician by murdering him. Malraux opens the book with an astounding description of Ch'en as he kills the man and then finds himself alone with death. His thoughts are expressed neatly when Ch'en reports to his superiors: "He could give these men the information they wanted but he could never convey to them what he felt."

Once given possession of the freedom of his will, Ch'en used it in a very common way. After he had killed, he became crazed. The constraints of society were pressing on him and killing became his only means of escape. To Clappique, the smuggler, escape was to create a mythical world in his conversation and also drinking. Katov's escape was killing but he simply wanted to massacre the enemy in revolution. The craze which Ch'en had seized him because he let the first act overcome him. After that he became an animal. Some men can delve lightly into phenomenal indulgences and the free will is not overcome by them; others are overcome by them.

Nearly all of Malraux's characters are overcome in this way. Even wise old Gisors becomes addicted to opium as a means of escape from the world's futility.

Haakon M. Chevalier in the Kenyon Review calls this resistance dignity. He may be right. Immanuel Kant in his Critique of Pure Reason tells of a noumenal world, one which is different from the phenomenal world, one which is different from the phenomenal worlds. Man's Fate partly in both the noumenal and the phenomenal worlds. The phenomenal world is governed by the laws of nature. Animals live entirely in this world. In the noumenal world the will is free: the principal under which an action takes place must be universal. (Beauty is not based on experience. Its laws are its own; hence beauty is noumenal.)

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When man exercises the freedom of the will of this neuminal world in the phenomenal world, as he can do, the question arises as to how far he can go and still get back safely to the free world. Obviously Ch'en never got back. Kyo, although he saw just as much killing as the rest, was never overcome by it. A great love for May, his wife, counterbalanced such temptations considerably, but there was always the possibility of his being overcome by that in itself. Kyo finally died for his revolutionary cause. Many of his companions died too and he was outstanding as a hero among them because he knew his purpose.

C. J.

KAULFUSS ON BRIDGE

A bridge party was held at Mrs. Hynes' on Tuesday the thirtieth. The following people attended: Mrs. and Miss Cahall, Miss Allen, Mrs. Hynes, Charles Rehms, Chet Cable, Crawford Jones, and myself. Cards were drawn for partners with each student playing with one of the ladies present. Each student played six hands with each one of the ladies. Scoring was kept individually. There proved to be some good competition. Scoring honors were taken by myself with 5790, while Mrs. Hynes was second with 5420, and Mrs. Cahall was third with 5000.

After the playing was over, refreshments were served. It was announced that a certain team, namely, Charles Rehms and Bill Vogely, would challenge any team of women from Camber. This challenge was accepted by Mrs. Hynes and Miss Allen. This should prove to be a very interesting match.

ANNUAL TRUSTEE'S MEETING

June not only heralds Commencement at Kenyon but also the annual meeting of the Board of Trustees.

The following men will be present: Dr. Rev. Beverley D. Tucker, the Rev. Henry Wise Hobson, Ernest C. Ramsey, Laurence H. Norton, Richard Ellis, George Enfield Frazer, the Rev. Phil Porter, the Hon. John W. Ford, T. Cateby Jones, Thomas J. Goddard,

William F. Maag, Don C. Wheaton, Robert A. Weaver, Charles C. Wright, William N. Wyant, Walter T. Collins, the Rev. William B. Kinder, Guy W. Prosser, Walter H. Brown, and the Rev. Canon Gilbert P. Symons.

CAMPUS CHATTER

Flash! Flash! Kenyon is transforming into a grammar school—haven't you heard? Yes, there's to be an entering class at midterms whose average age is rumored to be fifteen years. What happened to the Betas the night before last?.....Is Elliot Improving as a Pledge Boss?....We wonder if Miss S i l l y really loves General Lee p l d. Who was celebrating his high school graduation the other night?.....sure was pouring it down the old epiglottis! Is the Klan still terrorizing—where's the Crawl?....What are the Phi Kaps going to do without their two B.M.O.C's. Why does Allen turn green every Tuesday night?.....Is the Combo going to get together for the comps? We hear Allen had a great time at the dance last Friday night with some charming lady....Bobby the Bull has failed to wear his "C" of late....The bulletin board in the Commons was recently adorned with a caricature of some well-known campus friend.... We wonder if Mac enjoyed pulling the switch at the House the other night.... Personal to one Wally Lynn: have you overcome your deafness yet. What hefty life-guard is making a desperate effort to become "a mere shadow of his former self?" Hey DEKE pledge, what did Pop have to say on your recent trip home? An anonymous DEKE has been playing the lady-killer at the pool? We hear some brave character is going to defy Dean Brown's dance-weekend ruling...Did they fulfill their promise to bring you home early, MacGregor? ...This campus chatter staff would like to know how Messrs. J' A 's tonsils are functioning lately—as if we haven't heard. What did Platt have in the thermos bottles he borrowed the other night?.....Is there anything left in the Alumni House kitchen?....are Hartman and Shriber still pledges or actives or what! ARE YOU STILL READING, 1...!FOOLS!

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KENYON COLLEGE

WE'LL HAVE A CARTOON AS SOON AS COMPS ARE OVER

INTRAMURALS

The first encounter staged in the current intramurals occurred last Monday at Benson Bowl. It was featured by J'Anthony's squad receiving a rather severe to ncing at the hands of Jack : Stamler's assemblage; the final box score being 10 to 5.

This game was a five-inning affair, being called at 5:30. Stamler's team held a pre-game edge, in that a number of Kenyon's baseball players adorned this lineup.

The consistent and timely hitting of MacGregor, Oda, MacClave, and Stamler coupled with good fielding had netted them a ten-run lead over J'Anthony at the end of the fourth inning.

Stamler relieved Platt on the mound in the waning moments of the diamond duel. At this point J'Anthony's aggregation began to click. Several well-placed hits, in addition to the many errors of the opposition, altered the score to 10 to 5. The Stamlerites declined to bat in the last half of the fifth and retired from the field victorious.

The faculty engaged the students in softball game last Wednesday afternoon. In this fray the undergraduates exhibited such batting and fielding prowess that the faculty came out on the short end of a 9 to 4 score. Almost air-tight infield play on the part of the faculty greatly stemmed the tide of the students.

This likewise five-inning affair

was equally enjoyed by both sides and ones of similar nature can be looked for in the future.

BASEBALL NEWS

Fellow students and all affiliated with Kenyon College may stand ready to proffer a congratulating hand to the members of the Hill's wartime baseball squad. Their work on the diamond this season has been, considering coaching and manpower difficulties, stellar.

The highlight fray of this spring schedule is the approaching game with highly-touted Shellmar of Mount Vernon. Shellmar has remained a continuous threat to Kenyon's hopes for sweeping the Mount Vernon Amateur League titleless this season.

Kenyon's title chances are probably hinged on the outcome of this fracas. However, in view of the fact that Shellmar lost recently to Utica while Kenyon defeated this same team, our chances for victory appear extremely fruitful.

Our baseballers have sacrificed much time and effort to develop the envious record they now hold—Kenyon is undefeated in Mount Vernon League competition. They deserve your most loyal support!! Come on, Kenyon, let's all turn out for the game in Mount Vernon this Sunday. Give them you whole-hearted backing!!

-----John Hartman
(subbing for
J'Anthony.)