

Kenyon College

Digital Kenyon: Research, Scholarship, and Creative Exchange

The Kenyon Collegian

Archives

7-14-1944

Kenyon Collegian - July 14, 1944

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digital.kenyon.edu/collegian>

Recommended Citation

"Kenyon Collegian - July 14, 1944" (1944). *The Kenyon Collegian*. 1902.
<https://digital.kenyon.edu/collegian/1902>

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Archives at Digital Kenyon: Research, Scholarship, and Creative Exchange. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Kenyon Collegian by an authorized administrator of Digital Kenyon: Research, Scholarship, and Creative Exchange. For more information, please contact noltj@kenyon.edu.

KENYON

COLLEGIAN

Founded 1856

Vol. LXIX No. 6

Gambier, Ohio.

July 14, 1944.

THE FRATERNITY TRADITION.....TIMBERLAKE
REVIEW : BAREFOOT BOY WITH CHEEK....COOLIDGE
RUSHING, '44 STYLE.....HARRIS

KENYON FIRST

The Rushin' Front

The Kenyon Man vs Immaturity

Shulman, an Analysis

News Events:

I.R.C. Solves Puerto Rican Problems

Dean Brown Campaigns

President's Travels

Departure Mourned

Recent Visitors

Kenyon's 4th

Editor Charles Allen

Editorial Board

Ed Coolidge Bob Elliott
Louis Kurahara Roger Sherman
Joe Koelliker

Business Manager Joe Koelliker

Staff--Dick Gifford, Dave Harris,
Bruce Bell, Dave Harbison,
John Kaichen, Milton Saville.

Sports Editor--Chuck M. J'Anchony

KENYON FIRST !

"We consider the fraternity responsible for a positive contribution to the primary functions of the colleges and universities, and therefore under an obligation to encourage the most complete personal development of its members-intellectual, physical, and social. Therefore, we declare: 1. That the objectives and activities of the fraternity should be in entire accord with the aims and purposes of the institutions at which it has a chapter; 2. That the primary loyalty and responsibility of a student in his relations with his institution are to the institution." The preceding is quoted from the Fraternity Criteria of the National Fraternity Conference. In effect this manifesto of the nation's fraternities says that fraternities are secondary.

Many of us at Kenyon have lost sight of this important fact, and much of the unpleasantness recently noticeable around the campus can be traced to this oversight. The curtailed enrollment of the school has changed the fraternity rivalry from group competition to personality conflicts. These petty difficulties must be ironed out! And the only solution is a reinterpretation of the fraternity's position at Kenyon.

Human psychology is such that the gregarious nature always asserts itself. The result of this tendency at Kenyon is the fraternity system. All non-fraternity colleges have some set-up to satisfy this instinct. Examples are: eating clubs at Princeton, and the numerous social groups at Harvard and Yale. Thus it is obvious that fraternities, as such, are not essential to successful college life.

Our fraternity system is most unusual. Not only does the fraternity man have his own

group for social outlet but he also is in constant contact with the remainder of the student body. The happy memories we have of Kenyon life are testimonies to the success of this system. If we wish to retain fraternities as our medium we must recognize their true position in relation to Kenyon. We are first Kenyon men and secondly fraternity men. The best fraternity men have been notably Kenyon men above all. If our fraternities are wise they will realize their honorable and subordinate position and adhere to it.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

In the last issue of the COLLEGIAN was a letter commenting on college room fees.

The charge for rooms is, as the Catalogue states, \$45. per term, which was the college average under the old system when the exact amount of the charge depended upon the number of men in a Division.

The light charge which, as the Catalogue states, is in addition to the room charge, is arrived at by taking the meter reading on Hanna Hall and Alumni House each term and dividing into it the number of students in residence. This charge is higher now than it has been for some time for several reasons. One, because of the lesser number of students in each building. Two, because of excessive use of lights and electric power for other purposes. And, three because of the increase of wattage occasioned by the use of radios, electric razors and high watt lamps.

Light charges can be reduced all through the college by a careful use of power. If students will turn off their lights and their radios when they are not in use the charge might be cut in half.

If this one charge seems high it should be remembered that no other college fee has been advanced notwithstanding very decided increases in cost along the line. The Commons bill, for instance, is what it was in 1941, although food and operating costs in Peirce Hall have advanced substantially.

Yours sincerely,
Robert B. Brown
Dean of Students

THE FRATERNITY TRADITION

Ivy grows quickly on collegiate walls, and collegiate customs become time-hallowed traditions almost as quickly. A returning alumnus is therefore sometimes puzzled to find things called Kenyon traditions which to him are innovations as startling as a rocket bomb.

Even such a really venerable heritage as the mass of fraternity customs and inter-fraternity etiquette is a case in point. In many respects it is going on as it has gone on forever—that is to say, as it has gone on since I was a freshman. The marching steps of men singing at night on the path, the elaborate respect with which the passerby stands at attention while some rival band hymns its deities under the starlight. All that is old, familiar, comfortable.

But last Sunday in the Commons, I heard, not for the first time, the whole student body in painful chronological sequence, sing one by one a song of each fraternity. It made me think, by contrast, of an incident in the old Commons, before the last war, when a transfer student innocently mentioned a fraternity by name. He was figuratively and I think literally, kicked on the shins and later informed that it was not being done; that publicly fraternities did not exist, and that a man lived in East Wing or North Hanna, or any other division of the dormitories but not in a fraternity. An examination of a file of the Collegian shows the same thing: you simply cannot tell from the public prints that Kenyon had such a thing as fraternities. Only once a year in the Rowville, did the college let down its hair and use Greek letters openly. To sing one another's songs at dinner would have had slightly the effect of kissing one another's wives in public.

Not that the older tradition was necessarily superior. Any

taboo is by nature suspected and the hush-hush may have been merely a poor imitation of 19th century Yale. But it had one point in its favor. Then, as now, the student body was small. It was not a bad thing to talk of Kenyon in terms of the college and not of the fraternities, and thereby to create first a united band of Kenyon men of which the fraternities were loyal, and subordinate members.

Philip W. Timberlake

RUSHING-----'44 STYLE

Step out of you helicopters a moment, children, and Grandpa will tell you how he was rushed 'way back in '44. That was during the big war, you know, and those Liberal Arts colleges which functioned at all were functioning on a shoe-string. Why, a professor with five in a class scarcely knew how to handle the crowd. With fraternities, it was a Fight for Survival, and almost from the time Grandfather stumbled off the bus he was pursued relentlessly by an army of Greek Letter men, thrust cigarettes in his mouth, cokes in his hand---cokes? Oh, those were drinks that tasted like, ah, cokes---don't interrupt; and take that rocket gun out of my eye. Do you want to hurt somebody?

Well, getting back to my story, Grandfather and his friends were very bewildered. They had expected to have to beg their way into a fraternity and here it was just the opposite! We averaged about four hours of sleep that week which slowly wore down our resistance. We stumbled and crawled from parlor to parlor, picnic to picnic, show to show. And all the while, some upper classman murmured raspily in our ear, "Now we don't take just anybody. We would rather have no one than someone we'd be sorry for taking later. But we've looked you over, and have decided that you are worth going after." Here he would lay a moist hand on our shoulder and with a quivering voice would repeat, "We don't take just any- (cont'd on page five)

CC



nap, P

nce

e Dan

hairma
to con
the di
e, th
on, c
arts"
insti

ts th

Barefoot Boy With Cheek

Barefoot Boy With Cheek (Doubleday Doran Co.) is an almost outrageous satire on college life. The author, Max Shulman, cleverly attempts to show what is to be found behind the impressive portals of his alma mater, the University of Minnesota. This impudent piece of travesty proceeds from the fateful day our hero, Asa Hearthrug, leaves his loving parents and his faithful flame, Ledestons La Mole, to enter the great University, and follows him through his freshman year. The recital is perfectly plotless, but abounds in excellent situations, as typical of Kenyon or any other fraternity college as they are of Minnesota. No college man can fail to enjoy the rushing methods employed by Alpha Cholera, Asa's fraternity, which claims Androcles as a member and Eino Pfliekkinnenn, the great football player and B.M.O.C. as a present one. Likewise, Asa's first encounter with his faculty adviser is a high point in the narrative.

There are a very few spots of real humor to be found in the 207 pages of satire. Shulman sets the pace and the direction when he says that, "St. Paul and Minneapolis extend from the Mississippi River like the legs on a pair of trousers. Where they join is the University of Minnesota." But unfortunately he seems unable to keep it up, for in many places the humor seems strained, and for the most part one finds that the only basis of his wit lies in gross overstatement or understatement, either of which rapidly becomes tiresome.

Behind this gay and carefree facade, however, Shulman shows a deep and penetrating insight into the problems and situations of college life, and though he never ventures to proffer a solution, the presentation alone recommends the book to any college man, student or graduate.

Shulman, an Analysis

To any observant reader of Max Shulman's expose of college life, Barefoot Boy with Cheek, it is immediately obvious that the author has noted certain problems extant in his alma mater. He has presented these problems by exaggerating them and covering them with a pungent layer of humor, but the bare fact of their presentation proves his

knowledge of their existence. Unfortunately for the reader, Mr. Shulman offers no solution, and it is therefore up to us to draw our own conclusions.

The main portion of Barefoot Boy with Cheek deals with the fraternity situation at the University of Minnesota, and here also we find ourselves facing the problem of where fraternities stand on the campus and in relation to each other. It is interesting to note how analogous Shulman's Minnesota is to our Kenyon.

In the first place we see that in a large institution such as Minnesota, fraternities are definitely secondary. That is as it should be and as the National Chapters of the fraternities would have it. When the fraternity is considered of primary importance, nothing is gained. On the contrary, campus unity is destroyed, and the rivalry between fraternities which at Kenyon is already too great, is increased by leaps and bounds.

The extent of this existing rivalry is acidly portrayed in Shulman's book. There the unwitting freshman is trapped in a concealed pit, and dragged into the sacred confines of Alpha Cholera, where the actives proceed to "hot-box" him. The "hot-box" consists of a third-degree technique, combined with a greatly exaggerated account of the true worth of fraternities in general, and Alpha Cholera in particular. B.M.O.C.'s are paraded, and the Treasurer depreciates the costs involved in joining. And most of all, the other fraternities are talked down and libeled. Great promises are made, and subsequently unfulfilled.

One's first reaction to this account is, "Gross exaggeration!", and it is true that there is overstatement, but unfortunately not nearly as much as we would like to believe. Every statement, in the above paragraph is at least partially true at Kenyon College, and for the good of fraternities at Kenyon as well as the good of the College, these conditions must be rectified. If the fraternity system is to continue successfully here on the campus, the individual fraternities must cooperate, especially in these abnormal times. For we must all remember that fraternities cannot continue without the good will of the colleges, but that Kenyon would not be the least bit harmed by the departure of the fraternities from the campus. With the present conditions, the college might

(Cont'd Page 5)

THE KENYON MAN vs IMMATURITY

Let me begin my discussion with posing a rhetorical question. What is the Kenyon man? Surly, a man who has graduated from Kenyon College can be called a Kenyon man, or every one of the two thousand living alumni have been fooled into thinking their education at Kenyon has done more for them than any other college could have done. Have these two thousand men been blind to something which never existed?

The term "Kenyon Man" has been used for so many decades that we use it loosely and it has lost its significance, if it ever had any. During rushing seasons the Freshmen are painted glorious pictures of student life and of how freely the beer flows and the carefree life a particular division's activities are.

There are also many recent glib definitions such as: "A Kenyon man is one who can drink the most without passing-out and can retain a card catalogue of mistresses." To say the bearer of this definition was a fool is an understatement. Rigorously, he has convinced himself that Gambier Hill is a haven of flowing liquor and extravaganzas; in short, all work and no play. He has also persuaded himself that no other college has permitted its students to choose their brand of liquor or beer, whatever the case may be. Moreover, he doesn't seem to realize that the rate of drinking in Eastern schools is just as high if not higher than at Kenyon. The difference is that here in Gambier when a student goes out and gets potted everyone hears about it the following day-break, while in the larger Eastern schools the students go into a near-by city and get just as potted without any publicity. Many people fail to realize this Eastern cover-up situation. It is unfortunate that Gambier's social structure is composed in a mid-western manner which is not in keeping with the college. At any rate let's stop trying to make Kenyon a half-assed play boys' school. Let's either forget about it entirely or really do the job up crown. We can send daily communiques to the Mount Vernon News and the Alumni Bulletin describing for them all the bloody incidents concerning the latest scandal. Presently these disasters will filter through to the Alumni (who are Kenyon Men supposedly) and in that way they'll know what the Kenyon man is today and what a Kenyon education is doing

for the coming generation. Since it is the Alumni who support the school I expect someone to tell me they are of minor importance.

What a blessing it must be to come to Kenyon for the exclusive reason of learning how to drink without passing out and how to keep a string of women at your beck and call. May I point out that any one with the intelligence of a high-grade moron can do the same in his own home town. Why spend the seemingly precious booze money to Kenyon College and bother with English themes and Chemistry experiments?

When speaking of Kenyon's Liberal Education policies a few will retort: "Yes, Kenyon certainly is liberal." Who is to blame for this slam, the college or the students? The college's policy has been to equip the student with a set of beliefs which will serve him throughout life and teach him not necessarily how to make a living (leave this to the technical school) but how to live. The means for reaching this end are various and always under discussion. Obviously the trust must be placed with the student as theories alone cannot teach a man experience. Also, it is assumed that when one is old enough and has the intelligence to graduate from high school and come to college he is mature enough to make his own decisions and possess the stamina to live by them. If the student is not mature enough to realize he is responsible for what he does with himself and is unable to deduce mature choices he should have a mature group responsible for him.

This problem of drinking is a situation drawn from life which has to be faced. College days afford practice grounds to meet this issue. If a mature person has to pass out several times before he can learn to drink in an accepted way and not encroach upon the rights of others on one will ostracize him for his displays during this training period. It is the person who has learned the rudimentary prerequisites and persists his drinking till everyone has gone home that makes himself unpopular with the student body as it is because of him that everyone else suffers. This outline is truly a jinx in the bulwark of Liberal Education. One may apply this matter of drinking to each and every situation one has to meet in college. The question of cheating,

RUSHIN' FRONT

We have just passed through another period of rushing. This period, although unusual, showed certain characteristics which are definitely undesirable. Backbiting, deceit and out-and-out distortion of the truth have had a glorious holiday.

When rushing is not with us there are certain fraternities who maintain a close relationship. But comes the new group of enemies and past friendships take a back seat for some juicy slandering. Doors which have been formerly opened to all have been nailed shut in order to discourage possible competition, or perhaps to prevent meddling of the Froshs by former good neighbors.

Personal prejudice is the driving force behind many falsehoods handed out to the bewildered rushee. But even after crushing these prejudices are as much a part of us as ever. Some groups can not solve the problem of congestion without allowing their own selfish desires and personal feelings to dictate their every word.

Why don't we wise up? Obviously we need men to continue our fraternities. However, when we use some of the methods which proved popular during the week of June 30 people have a perfect right to say that Konyon is becoming, and fast, a second prep school.

Is there any hope for a change? Let us hope so for if we continue along the path we have been travelling this semester—let's not think of such a disaster but do something to take another road!

MEMBER: '44 STYLE

(cont'd)

body. We're not like Alpha Alpha Alpha." At this time we were too muddled to protest to this Beta Beta Beta man that all this high-pressure salesmanship was done much more to alienate our affections toward Beta Beta Beta than had tri-Alpha's startling disclosure (in strictest confidence of course), that it had been a Beta Beta Beta man who had designed the obstacle course. We couldn't meet all this sudden flattery with the debonair cock-it's-nothing smile we had been practicing in our room all morning. We just slipped into that singularly stupid red-neck grin that every man-about-town audaciously avoids, and wished we were back in the ribbon factory where no one ever noticed us.

But finally Saturday night came around, and Grandfather and his bewildered friends were vacally severed from their fraternity lauding bosom buddies, and we were darn glad for the rest too. Sunday noon came all too soon, and we were cleverly trapped in the dining room until 2:00, when the silence ban was lifted, but Gramps and a few others made a dash for the door, and succeeded temporarily in eluding the mob. The rest of his friends surrendered limp and helpless to the surging questioning crowds.

Well, I'd like to finish the story and tell you what Grandfather finally decided, but it's 9:00 and time for you to hear your physics lecture over the radio. I hear a professor in Copenhagen is going to talk to you today. So run along, you don't want to miss that.... ah me, those were the days!

THE KENTON MAN vs IMMATURITY

(cont'd)

for example follows the same outline.

Some individuals have been perturbed lately, to say the least, with the way the administration has retracted some of its student body governing powers. Is it any wonder they haven't wakened before this term to act? They are not blind to how immature the student body is acting. The administration left identically the same powers and liberties with the student one year ago that it had six years ago, and hadn't repealed any of their policies in spite of the immaturity of the students in these past few months. They gave us our ardent protest from our superficial prep-school advocates. It's only by the grace of God that both the President and the Dean haven't tucked us safely in bed at ten o'clock. In all, the administration is having a tough time gaining full control of the reins and let us hope they don't succeed as it can be proven to them that we are just as mature as the student body of the twenties.

Shulman, an Analysis

(cont'd)

benefit by this change. Let us all remember the fact, and act accordingly in the future. If our fraternity realizes its secondary importance on the Hill, and decides that it can and must coexist in harmony with the others, the benefits of this new policy would immediately become obvious to all.

KENYON'S 4th

The Fourth of July found students and faculty gambling on the green in search of mirth, music and food. The mirth was furnished by one of those confusing student-faculty ball games, the results of which seem to have been 12-8 at the time the dinner bell stopped the proceedings. The music was directed by Rudy Kutler, who proved himself a sensitive connoisseur, juggling "Tea for Two" and the Ink Spots like a veteran. A typical Kenyon supper followed, including potato salad, burgers, and some mysterious ice cream which jolted everyone, including the dieticians, by coming out purple.

ASSEMBLY SPEAKER

The assembly speaker for July 11 was the Rev. Thomas Barrett, graduate of Amherst and for five years Kenyon's chaplain, who spoke on the subject, Education - Yesterday, Today and Forever. Leaving no stones unturned in his satiric picture of the typical pre-war college system, Mr. Barrett made his point that now is the time to acquire a sound education, since the war has stripped away most of the non-essentials from the college curriculum.

PRESIDENT'S TRAVELS

President Chalmers recently left Gambler for a very short trip to Rock Island, Maine. He was accompanied by his wife and four children, who are remaining for the greater part of the summer. Dr. Chalmers is now back on the Hill, but hopes to rejoin his family soon.

I.R.O. - PUERTO RICAN PROBLEMS SOLVED

Following up intensive study on the subject, the International Relations Club headed its topic for Friday, June 30, "Puerto Rico". Much was accomplished and many problems were solved by the ensuing discussion.

Latin-America being the theme, "Columbia" is the topic chosen for the meeting of July 21.

FRESHMAN HAZING

The largest freshman class in some time can look forward to a hazing period that will probably begin this coming Monday. It has not been divulged who will be in charge of this tortuous week, but all Fuzzies should start preparing now.

DEAN BROWN CAMPAIGNS

While Dean Brown has been on no trips for college business lately, he has been campaigning for the 1944 Kenyon Fund Campaign, a three year old Alumni fund with a goal for 1944 of \$30,000. After the first three weeks of the campaign, the Dean announces that half of the goal has been reached. Last year about \$14,000 was contributed.

The Dean and Mrs. Brown departed for a well-earned vacation to Canada.

RECENT VISITORS

Visiting the campus as the guest of the Oakhalls for the past few days was Mr. William Allen, Kenyon '11, who is the owner and operator of the Kenyon Ranch, so named for the college. The Kenyon Ranch is located forty-two miles south of Tucson, Arizona.

Also with us for a period will be Mr. Ricardo Pasquera of San Juan, Puerto Rico. He is visiting his son, Ricardo Pasquera, Jr. who, as you recall denounced the island's beloved governor, Rexford Guy Tagwell. With the presence of Mr. Pasquera perhaps we shall have further revelations about the social injustices on Puerto Rico.

DEPARTURE MOURNED

Roberta is gone! Kenyon genuinely mourns the loss of her whose doubtful intelligence was more than compensated for by her wistful face and shapely form. The many pleasant evenings she spent in the Alumni House endeared her to all who had the pleasure of knowing her intimately. A Great Dane, she was lent to the Alumni House by Lloyd Shaw.

RAIN

A certain eminent professor who desires to remain incognito has officially confirmed the fact that three-fourths of an inch of precipitation occurred on the day of July 11. The presence of the first few drops caused several loud renditions of the Doxology throughout the county, and ended the convulsions of several students who, during the last week of the nineteenth day drought, had been gasping "Pepsi-Cola!". The new turn of events has caused no Gambler casualties to date, but drastic things may happen at anytime. Communiques will be issued from the Presidents office as rapidly as they come in.

BASEBALL EDITORIAL

A new Kenyon team hitherto untried fell victim to Brandon to the tune of 3-1. This marked the second defeat in a row for the Lords but it must be pointed out that they will be a better fielding team. Kenyon had many opportunities to run away with the game but at the crucial moment the hitting stopped. This lack of power at the plate can be traced to the fact that the team has not had enough batting practice.

How drastically the squad has altered can be shown by the number of changes in the lineup. The only hold-overs from last term's team are: Allen at center, Willis at second, MacGregor at left and J'Anthony at first. Around these men Coach Kutler put Bell at third, Hughes at short, and Allured in right. Another matter is "Why can't Kenyon have it's own pitcher and catcher?" There are enough men out for all positions especially in the pitching department. With a little coaching either Martin or Roberts may make the grade. As for acatcher Branch didn't look bad for the first time.

If the team loses with RINGERS why can't it lose just as well with Kenyon men on it? As it is now I hesitate to call it the Lords, for certainly the two main positions are not held by Kenyon men. When the former nine were in doubt of a full team it was fine of those men to help us out, but we are now capable to put a hundred percent Kenyon team on the field.

To do this, however, will call for time. What good are six or eight practices devoted to the football team when the baseball team is denied the time to develop. Why should the latter be denied the right to field a good team at the expense of a mystical football season to come?

My argument is that since we can have a good team, and a Kenyon team, why not have one? The length of the baseball season is short and there is so much time to play football that we might like to indulge in some other sport for once, given the whole-hearted support of all involved.

BASEBALL NEWS

Due to the defeat handed the Lords on

Sunday by Brandon it has now dropped Kenyon's league average to 500. Brandon drew first blood in the first inning and proceeded to hold the one run lead until the fifth when J'Anthony's single to right scored Willis from second. However, Brandon wouldn't be denied their victory over Kenyon as they pounded over two more tallies in the sixth. Kenyon stormed back in the last half of the seventh and almost tied it up again. Willis started things by singling to center; Allen followed with a single to right-center. With two out J'Anthony popped to the pitcher to end the game.

The hitting honors were divided between Willis and Allen, each getting two hits apiece. The fielding lime-light was stolen by Fuzzie Bud Hughes, consistant work around short-stop was outstanding. Coach Kutler appointed Allen captain for the day's game

BOX SCORE

	AB	R	H	O	A
Brandon					
Sperman lf	3	0	0	0	1
Chadwick 2b	3	1	1	1	0
Wilson p	3	2	2	2	9
Rowe lb	3	0	2	5	0
Thompson c	3	0	0	6	1
Gore 3b	3	0	0	2	0
Conrad ss	3	0	0	2	1
Smith rf	2	0	1	0	0
Tharp rf	1	0	0	1	0
Hunter cf	2	0	0	3	0
Total	26	3	6	21	12

	AB	R	H	O	A
Kenyon					
Hughes ss	4	0	0	1	6
Willis 2b	4	1	2	2	1
Allen lf	4	0	2	0	0
J'Anthony lb	4	0	1	8	1
Bell 3b	3	0	1	1	0
MacGregor lf	3	0	0	0	0
Allured rf	3	0	1	0	0
Wheeler p	3	0	0	2	9
Kent c	3	0	1	7	0
Total	29	1	7	21	17

TEAM AVERAGE

The batting are as follows; J'Anthony 594; Willis, 526; Allen, 436; Bell, 333; Allured, 333; Macgregor, 157; Hughes, 000;