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HILLTOPICS

by Sandy Lindsey

One year ago the Kenyon student body (and Administration) was in the throes of an upheaval over the condition of student government on the campus. There was then no extant copy of a Student Constitution and the Senior Council bumbled along on a set of By-Laws performing in much the same fashion as it recently did. The COLLEGIAN pursued a do-little-or-nothing policy. As conditions worsened a small group of liberals and progressives (who were immediately identified as Communists!) organized a rival campus paper to press for reforms before the Administration cracked down. The now-famous "Per Spectus" was thus born and introduced to the campus as PS. It was rather forceful at times and represented the strong spirit of the editors for a decent government by students without administrative meddling. It stirred up the college, as any undergraduate of that semester will tell you. It pressed the administration for reforms in all departments, it castigated students and faculty alike for apathy and indifference to athletics, activities, student government, and scholarship. It was hard on everyone, including PS, but it provoked action — the most important involving the commissioning of the New Constitution. Jim Bellows, George Whitaker, Andy Morgan, this writer, the Faculty Committee, and Dr. Paul Palmer spent most of the summer constructing, writing, revising, and considering the new instrument of Student Government. Finally the Student Body and Faculty ratified the instrument in a rash of enthusiasm over the quality of this new law which sincerely attempted to encourage student government at the grass-roots and tried to mitigate the evils of inter-division politics by putting the emphasis on College activities. The new Constitution was for Kenyon Students, not for nine divisions.

The concept of the present Constitution is of impartial democratic government. What may seem to be confusions and redundancy are really almost irreducible rudiments. We admit of complex voting systems — but in considering the past student administrations we concluded that some adequate restraining device was necessary to avoid the machinations of the old fraternity "machines". To enlarge upon the errors of typists and re-writers as justification for abandoning the Constitution is foolish. Mr. Farmer's good intentions to the contrary and notwithstanding. NO GUARANTEE OF GOOD GOVERNMENT CAN BE WRITTEN INTO ANY CONSTITUTION. The Senior Council was composed of students chosen for their qualifications to govern student affairs, upperclassmen, sworn to administer justice under the Constitution. That they neglected their duty is not the fault of the Constitution.

No reformer's zeal for utopian simplicity, no eager-beaver student politicians, and no administrative bludgeoning is going to bring about a revival of student government at Kenyon! Perhaps a minor Anglican miracle may be engineered by our more religious brethren, but in the meanwhile we think Jim Hansen put his finger on a good point during his Assembly remarks. We do not share his patronizing attitude since we are all guilty in part of neglecting to require responsible action from our representatives. We present this idea in a spirit of humility, knowing that it does not do justice to the many students who are really interested and concerned. But for all that, there are too many men at Kenyon College today mooching money from the taxpayers to finance their half-hearted commuting between Kenyon and Gene Val Deans; men whose noblest aim appears to be to get an AB degree with the least expenditure of intellectual effort; an AB degree which will better prepare them for a life of debating from bar to bar in polite society.

Moreover, there is more than teaching and learning to be had on this Hill and if only some undergraduates could stick around during Commencement and Home-coming they might discover a little about the "spirit" of Kenyon College. The "old grads" love this place. When they sing "The Thrill" it is actually thrilling, and puts to shame the paltry wheezings and mealy-mouthed hypocrisy of present-day Sunday Dinner Sings. The "old grads" learned gentlemanliness and sturdy school spirit along with Plato and Biology and they found the Truths of the Universe as well in the Chapel as in the gym and in the labs. They earned their AB's in terms of educated gentlemen, good athletes, and disciplined thinkers, and they did it all under a far more straight-laced and autocratic administration than the one under which we so ignobly expire. At this juncture I hear the wickers of some short-pants student cynics who patronizingly label all Alumni "sentimental old fools." Well, Junior, the Truth is not mocked. The Alumni are, for the most part, successful business men, lawyers, scientists, teachers, etc., who have made their way in a competitive (well-almost) society. We choose to think that most of them are genuine products of a virile Kenyon College and since we are so little of what they were so much — small wonder that Student Government has gone the way of all corrupt democracies — to dictatorial Administrative autocracy.

The semester is nearly over. Administration and students will have a long hot summer to mull over their mistakes. We think that the basic issue remains what it was — a strong school spirit. We hope that some articulate and wise leaders will arise in the student body and lead us back to a genuine "love of Kenyon" and responsible self-government. The Constitution is not abrogated — the Assembly voted overwhelmingly to continue under that instrument as best we may and the Assembly also voted down the suggestion that any more Constitutional Committees or reform devices be pursued. We think the students recognize that what we need is leaders and a spirit of devotion to Kenyon. We hope that this era marks the resumption of that long neglected virtue which will rejuvenate responsible self-government and thus obviate administrative interference in student affairs.

Last year this time we joined PS and asked for "a government of laws and not of men." The hand of time now turns the words upon us and we ask: "Give us men! KENYON MEN!"

Summer Trip Abroad For Students

At the request of the Division of International Exchange of Persons of the Department of State, two converted troopships of the C-4 class have been made available for passage to Europe. The Institute of International Education will coordinate the allocation of space for students desiring to study abroad.

Naturally, accommodations are not in the luxury class. Male passengers will live in the holds and will eat at a stand-up cafeteria. Rates vary from \$117 to \$200 each way.

All ships call at an English and a French port and two or three sailings also call at Oslo. Priorities for passage will be handled by the Department of State and tickets will be issued by the Moore-McCormack and the United States lines. Passengers will be both members of sponsored groups and individuals. The first sailing is scheduled for June 6.

Full information on the different sailings can be secured from the Institute of International Education, 2 West 45th Street, New York 19, N. Y.

WKCG Plans Program; Facility Expansion

Starting less than a year ago with a bushel basket of old parts, station WKCG has grown into an efficient, high quality radio station; broadcasting five and one half hours a day with popular music, classical music, news and news analyses, quiz programs, sports announcements, comedy programs, and lectures. "Stump the Prof," most recent and most discussed addition to the schedule, is an example of what type programs the station wants; programs which will have a personal appeal to Kenyon students which the national networks do not have, and at the same time keep the station broadcasts on a high plane. Don Ropa's Wednesday afternoon news broadcast has become (according to some circles) so personal that a threatening rumble has been heard from South Hanna which promises soon to give vent in its own news broadcast.

Also new with the station is the recent announcement that it now broadcasts with ten to twelve times as much power, so many people who were unable to get the station before, should be able to do so now easily.

The staff of WKCG has been seriously hampered by not having a studio, not having radio parts, and not having money. But it takes more than just lack of material to stop Kenyon men, and anyone who doubts that should turn on his radio to 560 any weekday from three to eight-thirty.

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FACULTIES ACTIVELY OPPOSE BAKER BILL AS "UN-AMERICAN"

Golfers Take Conference Title; Trinkner Shines

Sparked by Perry Trinkner's low totals and medal-winning score, the Kenyon golf team swept into the Ohio Conference golf championship in the matches held Saturday in Granville.

Trinkner, consistently the team's low scorer during the season, tied with Ed Chiapetta in the regular play with a 76, but came back to win the playoff and the honors as low man of the conference.

The Kenyon team won the championship with a team total of 316, with Toledo next carrying 330, Denison 331, Otterbein 333, Kent State 338, Wooster 339, Mt. Union 344, Marietta 346, Wittenberg 348, Ohio Northern 354, Ashland 364, Capital 372.

Wooster, defending champions of the conference, showed that the calibre of league play has gone up since last year's match, by finishing in sixth place, although the Scots had essentially the team that won the last year's tournament playing this time. The Lords scored a surprise victory over Wooster early in the season.

HALSEY PAINTINGS VIEWED AT PEIRCE

Oils and gauches of William M. Halsey exhibited in the Lounge of Peirce Hall have drawn a variety of comments from Kenyon men. On the whole this has been favorable to the degree that three of the paintings are now in the private collections of students.

Mr. Halsey, who paints and instructs at the Gibbes Memorial Museum in Charleston, S.C., is among the more promising of young American artists. Those with a more extensive acquaintance with his work assure us that this is not a representative showing. Though displaying great talent, he is, to some extent, still experimental and imitative and has not yet settled upon his own idiom. Self consciousness is rather apparent in the gauche, **Mexican Women**, and two oils, **Pears and Poison** and **Two Heads**, though all show great ability in pattern manipulation and freshness in balance.

Forgotten Shrine, Mexico, a gauche now in the collection of Fritz Foster, is probably his best liked Mexican painting, while **Pink Rhapsodie**, owned by Talbot Lewis, is a well conceived combination of optical illusion and intellectual trickery, and the most dramatic piece in the show.

One of the less conspicuous paintings, **Alley, Charleston, S. C.**, while it suffered badly from hanging and lighting is one of the most clean-cut statements of Mr. Halsey's talent. With this subject in his native city, he abandons virtuosity and speaks directly of a matter he knows intimately and well.

The freshness and the achievement of Mr. Halsey's work make us want to see more of it as time goes on, while the general success of this show raises the question, "Why not more of them?"

LETTERS SENT TO LEGISLATORS, PRESS

At a special faculty meeting held on May 22, it was moved and voted unanimously that the faculties send the following letter to the State Senators and Representatives from this district; that copies of the letter be sent to Governor Herbert, State Senator Baker, United States Senators Taft and Bricker, and Congressman MacGregor; and that copies of the letter be released to the press with a statement endorsing the recent similar action of the Oberlin faculty and calling on the faculties, trustees, and alumni of all Ohio Colleges and universities to express their opposition to the proposed law.

The text of the letter states that "the faculties of Kenyon College protest against the proposed passage of Senate Bill No. 238, 'To create a commission to investigate alleged un-American activities in all schools, universities, and colleges in the State of Ohio', as a violation of the principles of democratic government established by the Constitution of the United States and by the Constitution of the State of Ohio.

1. Through failure to define the term 'un-American activities' the bill sets up a body with power to label any activity un-American of which for any reason that body does not approve.

2. It thereby empowers the proposed commission to interfere with the free discussion at any educational institution of any controversial issue, although the right of such free discussion is explicitly guaranteed by the Federal and State constitutions.

3. It empowers the commission to conduct investigations, and to make search and seizures, without legal check on its procedure, and with no provision for an appeal to the courts.

4. It thereby empowers members of the commission to indulge in unrestricted accusations, allegations, libel, and slander, with no legal recourse for persons or institutions so treated; a privilege clearly contrary to established principles of law.

5. In principle the proposed law goes on the totalitarian assumption that a small group of men may, by their own interpretations, dictate the political, economic, social, and religious teachings of the educational institutions of Ohio. Serious concern for the preservation of democracy in this state leads us, therefore, as American citizens, to protest against the law as itself wholly un-American."

It was announced recently that there will be positions open for students of Kenyon at the forthcoming Conference on the Heritage of the English Speaking Peoples. These positions are for guides, waiters, and drivers. It is not known yet the exact number needed, but all are urged to sign up, as students cannot be invited to the conference as guests due to the lack of housing. Neither has it been announced the wages which will be paid. All students who are interested should contact Dr. Sutcliffe in the basement of Ascension Hall.

Letters to the Editor

In the last issue of the *Collegian* Mr. Leist put on his shining armor and, like a good knight, bravely defended a lady from furious attackers. I am fully aware of the position I am in as a countryman of Mme. Flagstad, but I am sorry that I cannot hasten to assist Mr. Leist.

According to Mr. Leist, Kirsten Flagstad was only sinned against, without sinning herself. As evidence of this he mentions a testimonial presented to her by Chief Justice Stang of the Norwegian Supreme Court. But Mr. Leist tells only part of the story which gives a completely distorted picture of the Flagstad case. It is true that Mme. Flagstad refused to sing for the Germans, and that she did not appear publicly in Norway during the war. For this she got the testimonial from Mr. Stang. But what had Mme. Flagstad done before she returned to Norway?

She was without a doubt the most famous Norwegian in this country at the time of the Nazi invasion of Norway when the Norwegian Government called upon all Norwegians at home and abroad to do whatever they could to assist their country in the time of peril. The government considered it especially important to build up good-will in the United

States. To accomplish this, no one could have done more than Kirsten Flagstad. But what did she do? The answer can be given in one word — nothing. Instead, she wanted to go home to her husband whom she could not help knowing was an active collaborator. The Norwegian Embassy urged her not to go. When Mme. Flagstad refused the request, the Embassy would not assist her. Mme. Flagstad, however, must have had influential friends somewhere else. She got permission to go through Germany to German-occupied Norway, I leave it to the reader to guess which embassy assisted her. In Norway Mme. Flagstad remained passive, shunned by all patriots. This, Mr. Leist is the story. If you had lived through five years of German occupation, I am sure your attitude would have been different. You would have learned the hard lesson that all the occupied people did, that all those who were not for, were against. A middle path was not possible.

Sven A. Swensson

To The Editor:

The Movie Committee of Kenyon College is bringing to Kenyon on June first, the famous French film, "The Well-Digger's Daughter." This film, starring the late French actor, Raimu, is being brought to Kenyon at a price that is about six times the normal price that is usually paid for a movie. We will need the highest

attendance we can get to even hope to cover the cost of this film. The usual movie at Kenyon costs us about \$25.00. This film is costing us \$150.00. In other words, to put this on a business basis, we need all the students we can get at this picture, to even hope of getting near the price of the film paid for.

I, at this time, am making a personal plea for your support of this picture. We usually take in about forty to fifty dollars an evening. To net \$150.00 we will need all, or at least almost all, of the student body at Kenyon present at this picture.

This picture is regarded as one of the finest pictures of this century by the leading movie reviewers of the country. I assure you that your time will not be wasted at this enterprise. This is an experiment to try and get the better movies at Kenyon. Only by your full support can we accomplish this feat.

Thanking you for the full support I am sure you, the students of Kenyon, will give this picture, I am

Sincerely yours,
JAMES D. HANSEN

To The Editor:

Justice Brandeis once remarked that "the saddest epitaph that can be written in memory of a vanished liberty is that its possessors failed to stretch forth a saving hand while yet there was time." It is this very epitaph

that the student body of Kenyon College can very properly inscribe on the headstone of the Senior Council and the Senior Court. This Siamese twin of our student government could have been saved had the student body stirred itself enough to become acquainted with its rights and to inform itself concerning the activities of its representatives.

Blame has been placed in many quarters by many people, but it seems that all can be summed up in one word — indifference. The word is a rather nasty word, for it denotes sheer laziness, a slothful mind and sheer inability to recognize those very adjuncts of freedom that should be dearest to an educated man's heart.

Merely labeling something, however, does not correct the seemingly difficult situation facing us. Before this situation can be remedied, it is first necessary to inquire into the reasons for its existence.

Basically, anything that creates

interest must first be of some use to those persons maintaining this interest. This, it is rather generally admitted, is a condition not met by our present cumbersome and impractical constitution which is the basis for our student government and our ills.

To begin with, there was no provision in this constitution which made it mandatory for the President of the Student Assembly to call such an assembly. True, the constitution did provide that assemblies should be held regularly on the second Thursday of each month. But without force of some nature behind this statement it is, for all practical purposes, worthless. As soon as students cease assembling to hear and discuss matters of common concern, the principle ceases to exist and the chosen representatives are given a free hand to do as they and only they see fit. In the case before us they saw fit to do almost nothing.

(Continued on page 3)

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Wooster Coach Praises Spirit

In the midst of the current clamor about the Hill relating to the poor Kenyon spirit especially with regards to athletics, an outside voice has commented upon it. Wooster College's baseball coach and former Director of Publicity, Art Murray, remarked in a recent letter to H. F. Pasini following the Lord's defeat at the hands of Wooster, 6-5:

"You and your staff are doing a great job at Kenyon; the best job that has ever been done there. I began to observe and know about Kenyon when I was a youngster going past Kenyon on the train.

"And I think that you ought to know that I enjoyed the friendliness of that crowd of Kenyon rollers on the hillside back of our bench. I am afraid that they set a standard of sportsmanship which our Wooster crowd would have trouble matching."

The statements in this letter were unsolicited. They reflect the impressions of a casual observer. They would refute the accusations of many Kenyon men that the feeling toward Kenyon athletics is one of apathy. The excerpts from the above letter prove that where there is a Kenyon team there is Kenyon spirit behind it, regardless of whether the outcome is win, lose, or draw.

To The Editor:

(Continued from page 2)

which finally forced the College to assume once again its delegated authorities in order to promote the general welfare of the college community.

All is not lost, however, for there still exists that body from which all other entities of student government spring — the Student Assembly. In addition to this the Administration of the College has clearly indicated that it is willing and even anxious for the

resumption of effective student government, but it insists that first of all the fact must be clearly demonstrated that the student body is willing to form such a government and maintain this interest in it once it is formed. This is, after all, a fair and reasonable stipulation.

To re-establish effective student government will not be the work of a few men working several days or weeks. Rather it will be the diligent work of the vast majority of the student body over a period of several months. It will mean committee meetings, fraternity consultations, committee meetings and more committee meetings, all of them salted with pervading student interest and discussion. It will mean a new constitution written with the paramount idea in mind of correcting the errors of the present one and providing corrective and preventative measures designed to preclude the possibility of a recurrence of the present unhappy situation. It will mean the formation of some form of Student Court with a definite set of rules and regulations to work by. Seated upon that court must be men with the courage of their needful and necessary for the convictions who will do what is good of the College as a whole, rather than of any one individual or group of individuals in that whole.

In short, this means a student body aware of its responsibilities and willing to face them undaunted by opposition from any source, one willing to work for the individual good as expressed by the common welfare and one at all times alert to its responsibilities and duties as well as its rights. With careful thought and intensive work on the part of all, the Kenyon student body can have efficient and effective student government. In the light of this, do you want student government?

Robert G. Farmer
Donald W. Ropa

Linksmen Beat Big Red, Tie Wooster

The victories of Kenyon's able Golf Team remain in the bright spots of the 1947 Spring sports schedule. With two wins, one loss, and two tied contests to date, Kenyon's "divotees," Ayres, Marvin, Trinkner, and Martin can set steady sights on the Ohio Conference Championships at Granville, looming on May 24th.

The Lord club-swingers toppled Denison on April 28th, 11-1, with Marvin's 75 the day's low on the Mt. Vernon course. Following through on April 30th, Kenyon drubbed Ohio Wesleyan 10-2 on the links of the York Temple Club. Ayres was medalist with a low of 74 for the match.

On May 7th, a stubborn Wooster rallied on its home links to tie the Purple and White 12-12. Wooster's Locker swung a 77 for the best performance of the match. Kenyon's rematch with Denison on May 12th resulted in a second tie, 6-6. Trinkner of Kenyon turned in a 78 for low honors.

PHI BETA KAPPA

The following men were elected to Phi Beta Kappa at a recent meeting of the Kenyon Chapter: Kenneth E. Burke, Paul H. Henisart, Richard W. King, Frederick B. Arner, Gordon I. Newcombe, Edward A. Nugent, Thomas S. Smith, William D. Brand.

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THE INNOCENT BYSTANDER

By John Hartman

Kenyon College has a very fine pool and billiards room. It is located on the second floor of Peirce Hall adjoining the card room. Recently this room has undergone a renovation. The four playing tables (two for pool and two for billiards) have been re clothed and they are now in such condition as to be most receptive to the rebounds of the ivory spheroid. Acclaimed by Mosconi, who recently staged an exhibition at Kenyon, as some of the finer in Ohio, these tables are now a center of much activity. Kenyon men flock to this room during the dinner hour and between classes.

The pool and billiards room is adequately equipped. There are a variety of cue sticks ranging in weight from No. 14 to No. 19 and suitable to the most discriminating artist. Chalk is also available. There are armchairs lining the room; also, coat racks upon which players hang their wraps while stripped for action, are provided. Billiards and pool can be said to have almost universal appeal to the Kenyon man, inasmuch as

training is not necessary in order to obtain proficiency. Furthermore every man is his own coach, hence to date there have been no reported cases of insubordination among the ranks. A constant state of camaraderie prevails among billiards enthusiasts. They realize their common end (that of improving their playing technique) and, as a result, the desire to win is not the only drive underlying participation; the thrill of competition unfailingly draws an ever increasing number of neophytes into the ranks of this popular pastime. **Get in the swing — try billiards tomorrow.**

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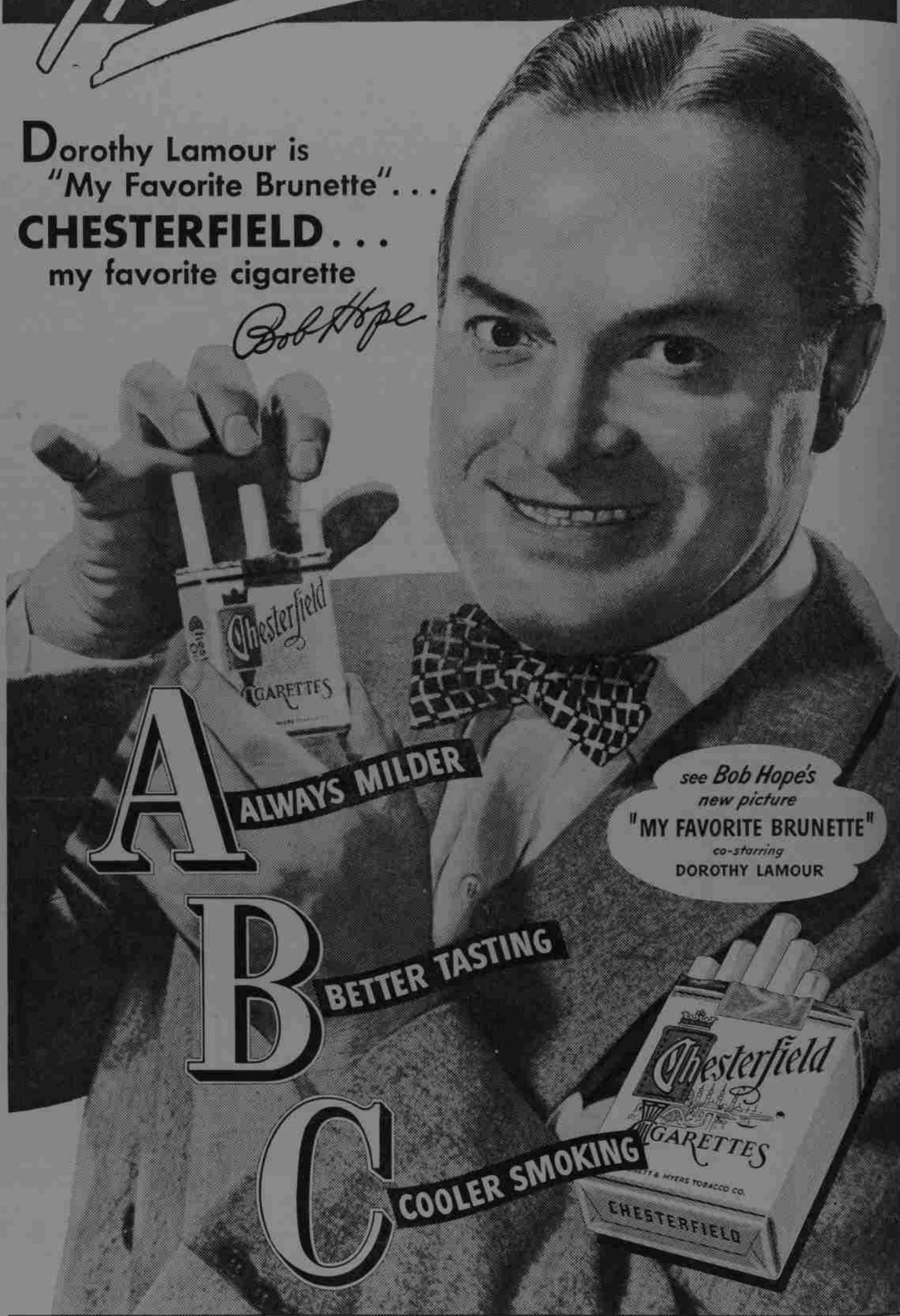
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