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Kenyon Collegian - November 30, 1951

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kenyon collegian

nov. 30, 1951 kenyon college, gambier, ohio vol. 78, no. 5

Boxscore

Faculty attendance at assembly, November 20:
4 (8%).

Thirty

Last May, the present editor came out of Mather hall retirement to assume control of the COLLEGIAN, a step which he faced with grave misgivings and undertook more as an obligation than as an honor. This issue is Mr. Lobdell's last: he is returning to burets and pig embryos. If some permanent order of sanity has been instilled in the paper during the past few months, his mission will have been accomplished (he says).

Paternalism

"Runyon," accepted nickname for the College, seems to be fading fast in favor of a new, more pejorative moniker: Kenyon Prep. The reason for this replacement is obvious; Kenyon Men resent the creeping paternalism which the Administration has exhibited this year.

Although the situation hasn't reached the point where Headmas—(oops) Dean Frank Bailey tolls curfew each night on the Old Kenyon bell, or President Chalmers birches recalcitrant scholars, there have been signs that College officials don't quite trust all these new-fangled (50-year old) ideas about the student's basic ability to govern himself. One of them is the recent "suggestion" that the Constitution be revised to include the idea that student government is the gift of Dr. Chalmers; the earlier, unjustified edict concerning class cuts is another.

Tradition is a fine thing unless it be, like Kenyon's, a tradition of close, minute supervision of student affairs. We strongly doubt whether the board of trustees would charge Dr. Chalmers with negligence of duty if he let the present Council, or a joint student-faculty governing body, make decisions concerning, say, class cuts or assembly requirements, and we don't think that the College would lapse into a state of anarchy if this body were given unqualified powers to deal with offenders to the community. Other schools seem to be getting along nicely under such an arrangement.

At any rate, the Administration's decision to emasculate an already feeble Constitution can be productive of nothing more than ill-will on the part of the Kenyon Man, who desires, and deserves, a step in the opposite direction.



FRENETIC LEFEVER: See Campus

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Wright . . .

To whom it may concern:

Hallelujah. The weather is turning cold. The birds are gone south. Students of the community are ignoring the barber-shop and, in Horatian phrase, shunning the baths. But there will probably be no more Peep Nights before Spring.

During my strenuous labors for the public benefit, I have carried on some research about Peep Nights. I think that the majority of our students justify the existence of such nights on the following basis.

1. The students are bored with books, and need to be entertained.
2. Young ladies do not study at our school.

These arguments interest me for the following reasons:

1. College students who are bored with books compose a paradox. Students are supposed to read books. I used to think that students liked books; but when I had such thoughts as these, I was dwelling in the dark Cimmerian desert of an idealistic high school.

2. In the army five years ago, most of the young men with whom I sorted were also admirers of girls. Unfortunately, it was not always possible for them to spend each evening in female company. However, so far as I know, none of them was ever so afflicted with satyriasis that he flipped his stack and tossed his cookies by performing violence on the property of his neighbors. Little boys who perform violence when they don't know any little girls are generally locked up in little rooms by little men in little white coats and are persuaded to foster other little thoughts

in their little brains.

I hope you don't think I'm trying to attack a Kenyon tradition. Far from it. If young men in the past made asses of themselves, I see no reason why we should not uphold (lower?) the trousers of tradition.

JIM WRIGHT

. . . & Wrong

Editor, the COLLEGIAN:

The purpose of this letter is not to accuse, but to bring to the attention of the College, both the student body and the administration, the repeated thefts which have occurred on the campus in recent years, and which are continuing at the present time. Middle Hanna has been the victim of many of these thefts: there have been stolen in recent years a radio from the parlor, individual bottles of liquor, and empty beer kegs. Since the beginning of this school year there have been stolen three empty beer kegs (the deposit on these kegs is \$6.00 each), a case of gin, and two bottles of scotch. Other divisions, South Hanna and Middle Kenyon, have reported the theft of liquor and empty beer kegs both this year and last.

I feel that such dishonesty is a disgrace to Kenyon; not only in being present in the community, but also that it continues. It is true that the Student Council has been active in this respect, but it needs the firm support of the administration. My sincere wish is that the Administration, with the help of Student Government, will combat the present situation with the same force and effectiveness which they have shown in the past.

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The Collegian

CAMPUS AFFAIRS

Edited by Mel Plotinsky

Docter's Conclave

IRC will be host today and tomorrow to the third annual convention of the Ohio Conference of International Relations Clubs. President-of-both, arm-waving Charles A. Docter, is bustling about optimistically despite cancellation of proposed broadcasts of the meeting (COLLEGIAN, Nov. 16).

The conclave brings to Kenyon two ranking foreign policy experts: Dr. Hans Morganthau, instructor at Harvard's summer session, administrator (University of Chicago center for Study of American Foreign Policy) and author of a text book used by classes of IRC advisor Professor Raymond English, and Dr. Martha Black, expert on West European Affairs (Department of State), whose training for Government was fostered by the Carnegie foundation.

Morganthau will speak tomorrow at 11:35 on "The Real Issue Between America and Russia." Dr. Black's address, which opens the Conference tonight at 7:15, concerns the importance of Western Europe to the United States.

Kenyon's thirty-man club expects over one hundred delegates from eighteen colleges and universities to attend the seminars, reception, banquet, dance, business meeting and lectures comprising the main activity of the Conference, which was organized in 1948.

Friday
3:30-6:15 Registration, Library
4:00-5:30 Reception, Alumni house
6:15 Banquet, Peirce hall (IRC members)
7:15 Address, Rosse hall
Dr. Black
9:30-12:00 Dance, Middle Kenyon, East Division Parlors (admission \$.50 for non-IRC members)

Saturday
9:30-11:00 Discussion Groups:
"Ferment in the Near East," East Division parlor
"The West's Policy Toward Communist China," Middle Kenyon parlor
"Stemming the Communist Tide," West Wing parlor
"Britain's Place in the World," East Wing parlor
"Trouble Spots of the World," Middle Leonard parlor
"Disarmament," Middle Hanna parlor
11:30 Address, Rosse hall, Dr. Morganthau
1:30 Discussion of Dr. Morganthau's address, Rosse hall
2:30 Business meeting, Rosse hall
Adjournment.

Kiddy Christmas

Kenyon's Christmas comes early and dies soon, like a premature baby. The season quickens in late November when the bookshop stocks greeting cards and by mid-December has suf-

fered an early entrance into the isolated world of Gambier. It's a scrawny, undernourished child, requiring careful nourishment, but Kenyon tries its best to keep it alive, with transfusions of "peace on earth, good will toward men."

The effort will again this year take the form of the annual orphan's Christmas party for the boys and girls of the Knox County Children's Home.

On the 13th of December, then, Kenyon hopes that it can make these lonely kids feel a little better. It hopes that by watching Bugs Bunny and Donald Duck and Goofy have a big, funny time on the screen in Rosse hall, the kids can feel better about all the big times they missed this year, the kind of big times that all the other kids it knows had, and never knew the difference. It hopes the kids will maybe shout and yell and whistle a little bit on the way back to Peirce hall to set up the Christmas tree that the Misses Chard and Kimball are buying for them. It hopes that the kids will feel good and full after dinner in Peirce hall, good enough to really put their hearts into the Carol singing around the tree afterwards.

Above all, it hopes that the kid who gets a cowboy suit, or a football, or a doll, or a pretty dress from Banker Brown (who's playing Santa) will feel that he's had just as much of a Christmas as the next kid.

Fred Papsin, chairman of the committee which is planning the program, and Eddie Stansfield and Lanny Griggs, his chief aides, estimate that they will need at least \$400 to buy presents and such for the children. This week and next, members of the committee will go to each division and solicit contributions. Papsin expressed the hope that each Kenyon student would give at least one dollar, in order that expenses might be met. In addition, the committee is depending heartily on faculty support, which has always been generous.

However, financial support is not all that is needed to make the party a complete success. As in previous years, each young guest of the College will have a "father for the evening," who will take care of his "child" and stay with him while he is here. Chairman Papsin is asking for forty men to volunteer for this service.

In addition to Fred and his assistants: Stansfield (chairman of last year's committee), Griggs, Axtell, Sharp (who will obtain and show the movies), and publicity manager Pennington, many others are joining in to help put the party over. The Bobbseys are generously donating their time, the food, and the tree; the women of Gambier are wrapping the presents, and several merchants of Mount Vernon have also volunteered to help.

Students wishing to give a donation for the banquet are asked to get in touch with one of the following men: Beta, Ed Stansfield; Delta Tau Delta, Si Axtell; Psi U, John Hallenberg;



DR. HANS MORGANTHAU
...and a dance

Alpha Delta Phi, Lanny Griggs; Sigma Pi, Joe Taylor; Middle Kenyon, Jim Wright; Deke, Bill McGowan; Archon, Hank Sharp and Joe Pavlovich; Delta Phi, Gordie Brown; Phi Kappa Sigma, Will Reade; Faculty, Mike Bundy.

Sitzmark

Kenyon ski enthusiasts, the memory of last year's rather brisk winter still fresh in their minds, got set to go shopping for ski wax this Christmas vacation. Both hill and tow should be ready for use soon, according to an announcement from the newly-formed group.

The club plans to buy a portable ski tow, and has received pledges for \$365 of the \$500 price. Both faculty and students have bought the stock, which sells for five dollars per share. Through use of the tow by Denison, Wesleyan and Mount Vernon, the club hopes to pay off its original investment and show a profit, which will be returned to stockholders. Seniors will get the first dividends, and so on down the line. The tow can be transported to any snow within a one hundred miles, in case the hill which Mr. Ayres has promised to lend (3/8 of a mile long, with grades for novices and intermediate skiers, and with "a sufficient variety of open slopes and trails,") hasn't got any snow on it.

Tony Brockelman heads the group, which is twenty strong, and hopes to increase to thirty-five. Mike Hayden is treasurer and Mr. Tracy Scudder serves as advisor.

Undaunted Ego

(Cover Story)

Even his enemies (and there are many) admit that F. Frank LeFever, leading Gambier eccentric and ego-buster extraordinaire, is perhaps the only current undergraduate whose name will join those of Fat Peirce and the Anvil Sisters on the select list of fabulous Kenyon characters.

Frank has reached this empyrean by

climbing over crumbling traditions, shattered egos, and toppled illusions. Nothing is sacred to him. On an inhibition-ridden campus, LeFever exhibits a complete lack of inhibition, a lacuna which has caused some to venture that his brain possesses no pre-frontal lobes.

Why Frank was admitted to Kenyon in the first place and how he has managed to remain here still mystify many. The confidential reports sent to the committee on admissions by his high school principal and other observers read like clinical descriptions of a sleazy psychopathic extrovert. And yet the committee admitted him without a dissenting vote, gave him a scholarship to boot. Since then, his reputation for eccentricity has involved him in numerous scraps with the administration. When the Old Kenyon bell clapper was stolen last year, he was blamed for that. When a drunk bombarded the rubber tile floor of a dormitory room repeatedly with a brick, somewhat to the floor's detriment, Frank was again hauled in to see the dean. Indignant at this accusation, Frank refused to budge from the Bailey office at the end of the interview, despite that worthy's screaming threats and imprecations. At last, as LeFever recalls it, he summoned "one of his stooges, a football player whom he'd just given a grant-in-aid," which football player ejected him bodily. Actually, the only physical damage that Frank can be charged with stems from his habit of clapping across the Old Kenyon roof at two in the morning, emitting daemonic laughter all the while; a few tiles occasionally are loosened. Also, he sometimes likes to grip a doortop and swing back and forth, as evidenced by numerous streaks from his rubber heels. Nevertheless, Frank LeFever is currently persona non grata to a large segment of the administration.*

Frank's reputation as Kenyon's cleverest anthropod can be traced to his dearth of inhibitions. Others, fearful of making asses of themselves, may hesitate to perform some hilarious feat; not so LeFever. His radio program, The Great Speckled Bird Show (WKCG, 8 p.m., Thursdays), for over a year in possession of the largest audience on the Hill, owes its success mainly to his complete disregard of the rules of social conduct. An outrageous potpourri of Roy Acuff recordings, mock commercials,† well-polished parody, and gibes at faculty hypocrites and shamsters, the Bird Show demonstrates Frank's talent for the preposterous to its best advantage. Perfect mimic LeFever may change voice several times during a half-hour stretch, imitate in turn a Grand Ole Opry m.c., General MacArthur fading away, Charles Taft delivering an assembly speech, the Bishop of Southern Ohio, a Russian announcer extolling the merits of Dentyne chewing gum, or two college maids making a bed. He may also find time to perform the overture to Tannhauser on

*Especially to the largest: registrar Stu McGowan.

†Sample, sung to the tune of the Thrill:
There is a thrilling spirit called Alcohol
Which leads us to a bright tomorrow
Cures the gout, drives headaches out;
It's frozen on a stick for the summer.



his armbutt, an instrument whose vulgar tones are produced by reverberations of the LeFever upper lip on the LeFever forearm.

Many are unaware of Frank's literary talent, because the greater share of his output is libelous, obscene, and/or totally unprintable. His greatest disappointment along this line came last Spring when Hika accepted a sonnet, one of the rather precious, serio-nonsensical, obtuse variety which literary magazine staffs prefer, then dropped it at the last moment. An intelligent member of the Hika organization had discovered that when the first letter of each line was added to the first of the preceding line, there emerged: CHALMERSEATS-IT. "I should have said it in French," snorted Frank.

Wisecracker LeFever's personal hab-

its are as bizarre as his wit. No firm adherent to the dictates of Mrs. Post, Frank slips through three helpings at chow, usually ends up with all the extra desserts at his table and any leftovers surrounding waiters wish to dispose of. On occasion, if not satisfied with the cuisine, he has been known to stamp into the kitchen, where there ensues a scene akin to that described by Dickens when Oliver Twist asked for More.

Many, by now inured to this crapulence, still recoil in horror at mention of the LeFever mustache, a scraggly, unkempt affair later supplemented by an equally scraggly, unkempt beard. Frank's inordinate pride in his foliage led to several attempts to remove it, all unsuccessful. The most memorable of these was thwarted by an act of God, when the wooden floor of his Harcourt

cubbyhole collapsed, taking with it thirty amateur barbers and an electric razor. Frank finally shaved off the mustache himself, for a Dramatic club production.

The chances of Frank remaining at Kenyon long enough to receive his B.A. are highly problematic; already various forces have begun a squeeze play. The Commons has been waiting for an opportunity to bar him permanently since early this year, when cooks arriving at 5:00 a. m. found his face peering out between pots and pans in a storage garret. Also, considerable unfavorable comment was elicited from Administration members and alumni at Homecoming when he toured the parlors in a dungaree suit and earrings. The Student Council, never exactly his friend, aimed a dart at LeFever last week by requesting that he and his coterie refrain from abusing the Peirce hall grand, which periodically has undergone sessions resembling a fusion of the Durante piano-wrecking act with pagan ritual. Fearless F. Frank LeFever, bolstered by an undaunted ego, defies them all.

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GELSANLITER'S

PEOPLE

The Muses joined last week as DAVID RANSOM, son of Kenyon Review editor JOHN CROWE RANSOM, wed New Yorker SHIRLEY JANE FARLEY, niece of theatrical director JOSHUA LOGAN.

Aspen, Colorado, cultural center of the West, has a new (part-time) resident, according to the current Holiday magazine. Owner of a new rancho on the outskirts is retired Board of Trustees chairman PAUL G. HOFFMAN.

Slickly EDDIE SPIEVACK, managing editor of Hika, who has been finding unpleasant things like vinegar worms and multi-tinted hairs in his Commons food, last week bit into a roll and came across something more bizarre: a pearl, attached to a two-inch stickpin.

The names of eleven professors joined twelve already present in the 1951

edition of the Directory of American Scholars (humanities and social sciences). Newly prominent: RALPH J. D. BRAIBANTI, JOHN CHALMERS, RAYMOND ENGLISH, ED HARVEY, FRANZ MAUTNER, STU MCGOWAN, JIM MICHAEL, DENHAM SUTCLIFFE, LANNY WARNER, CLEMENT WELSH, CORWIN ROACH.

Dogs in the news:

Director JIM MICHAEL, after weeks of searching for a mutt to fill the role of "this dog" in MND, finally decided on one from the Mt. Vernon Pound.

ACE, flap-eared basset hound who roamed the Cromwell Cottage grounds in the early hours of the morn, much to the distress of MRS. CHALMERS, suddenly disappeared from sight last week. He had been called "the personification of the Kenyon student."

MICROCOSM

Junior Binge

Members of the fraternal big three at Kenyon (Deke, Alpha Delt, and Psi U.), their appetites whetted by the recent Dance weekend, mulled the whole party situation at Kenyon over in their bewailedly dry brains and came up with a proposal: A Dance weekend, junior, to be held in February, and to fill up the long, long way from May to November. Plans are still very much in the chimera stage, but it seemed likely at press time that a proposal in November could bring a proposition in February.

Social chairman Joe Rotolo has announced two dances for the remainder of the semester, the first to be held December 8 and the second January 13. Chairman Rotolo made it clear, however, that these dates were still tentative. Both dances will be held in Peirce hall.

About half of Kenyon's 127 freshmen, who were Oh, so gay for the first few weeks of the semester, found out they didn't have the school snowed after all when the first down period came around. Sixty-four frosh tucked the little white slips of paper in their beanies, according to figures released by Registrar Stu McGowan this week.

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Early Conference Team

Golden Days

Kenyon, founder and staunch supporter of the Ohio Athletic Conference (except for a brief membership lapse in 1949) since its inception fifty years ago, will be the scene Monday of the group's Golden Anniversary program and dinner.

Second oldest conference in the nation, OAC was founded at an informal meeting in Cleveland on March 29, 1902 called to consider stabilizing and coordinating inter-collegiate athletic relations between Kenyon, Case, Oberlin, Reserve, O. S. U., and Wesleyan. Present membership consists of thirteen schools. Charter institution Ohio State has retained inactive membership in the Conference since going onward and upward to enter the Western Conference.

A number of matters of critical importance to the Conference and to intercollegiate athletics throughout the country will come up for decision at the meeting. On the agenda are the questions of:

- The elimination of spring football and the confining of all practice sessions in all intercollegiate sports to the recognized season;
- The limiting of the number of games in each sport;
- The reconsideration of the free substitution rule and the elimination of the platoon system in football;
- The adoption of the complete NCAA 12-point program;
- A consideration of the transfer rule as it applies to foreign students.

Rotund registrar Stuart McGowan is chairman of the arrangements committee.

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SPORTS

Edited by Tildon McMasters

Silver Hopes

Coach Dave Henderson and his twenty-man basketball squad are holding nightly practices in preparation for their opening game in Wertheimer fieldhouse on Wednesday evening, December 5 against the Otterbein Cardinals.

The Kenyon cage mentor announced his first ten players to date as being: Chad Vogt, Barry Cahill, William Reade, Ron Fraley, Don Marsh, John VerNooy, and Leroy Goodson, Gammon, Papsin and Brandriss complete his selections. Returning letterman Dick Eller will be lost to the team until after Christmas, due to a touch-football injury. Outstanding freshmen players are Chad Vogt from Tiffin, Ohio, and Leroy Goodson, of Elyria, Ohio.

Pre-season favorite for the conference championship: Ohio Wesleyan.

BASKETBALL

Wednesday, Dec. 5, Otterbein—Home
Saturday, Dec. 8, Hiram—Away
Saturday, Dec. 15, Fenn—Away
Thursday, Jan. 10, Wooster—Home
Saturday, Jan. 12, Heidelberg—Away
Wednesday, Jan. 16, Ohio W.—Home
Saturday, Jan. 19, Denison—Away
Thursday, Jan. 24, Capital—Home
Saturday, Feb. 2, Case—Home
Saturday, Feb. 9, Oberlin—Home
Saturday, Feb. 16, Wittenberg—Away
Tuesday, Feb. 19, Capital—Away
Saturday, Feb. 23, Wooster—Away
Wednesday, Feb. 27, Ashland—Home
Saturday, March 1, Denison—Home

(Grid) Iron Facts

The pigskin season came to a formal close last week with the release of final Ohio Conference statistics. Kenyon, although finishing with a mediocre record of three wins, three losses, put up a good show:

• The Lords, second only to Heidelberg in team offense ability, scored 126 points, gained 2147 yards (357.9 per game).

• Don Gabriele was sixth among Conference passers. In six games, he attempted 112 aerials, completed 44, which were good for 646 yards and six touchdowns.

• Gabriele's most constant receiver, big Don Marsh, ranked fourth in catching passes. In six games (as compared with other schools' eight or nine), he tucked in 22 passes for a net gain of 426 yards and four touchdowns.

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DIVISIONS

Edited by Bruce Pennington

Beta Theta Pi

Still recovering from an overdose of Dance weekend, a quintet of still-staggering baby-pinks took to the hardwoods against the Phi Kaps and got the intramural basketball season going with a narrow 26-25 victory. But the season is as yet too young to make predictions.

The Thanksgiving "weekend" left only a handful of men in South Leonard — but their activities seemed to make up for the absentees. Nonetheless, the division did seem a little bit empty, and we were all glad to see brother Gabriele return safely from his explorations into the Northwest.

To correct something which appeared in this column earlier in the year, brother Leech may now be found not only in the library, but also in Columbus, Granville, and other points within a 100-mile radius. We're at a loss as to exactly what stimulated this sudden burst of pseudo-scholastic enthusiasm.

Incidentally, any man wishing to contribute to the Woogie Food Fund, in the true Christmas spirit, may place his donation in the box on the Beta bulletin board.

Delta Tau Delta

Mementoes of Dance weekend: Feeding the whole d—n college sandwiches Sunday morning . . . the unusually high percentage of satisfied "blind-daters," (ask Dick Miller, Dick MacPherson, or Bill Briggs) . . . one lost soul, name of

Claude Baxter . . . Hurd's date remarking that she never got enough to eat all weekend . . . Chazz thinking of wintering at Miami . . . and finally, following the "trail of the blood-shot eye" to class on Monday.

After things quieted down, Thanksgiving was upon us. The "studious five" who remained on campus enjoyed the box lunches. At 4:15 p. m. on Sunday, Weepy was pledged. On Monday the division was almost empty due to the football (and soccer) banquet. It now looks like the Big Red Class "A" basketball team, led by "bouncing" Don Murphy, is heading for another great season (undefeated as this article goes to press). This year the "B" basketball team will be limited to boys who weigh over 180 pounds.

Right now the division is anxiously counting the 462 hours until Christmas vacation. A Christmas party is in the offing with Uncle Jack Greely acting as Santa Claus. Merry Christmas.

Sigma Pi

The "big dance" is over and the results in East Division were quite satisfactory. The room parties Saturday afternoon seemed to be the big thing as the weather interfered with the hay ride. George Granger returned to Kenyon for the weekend with a very attractive date.

Not many of the boys from East Division made it home for the holiday. It may have been due to the effects of

the previous week. But to those who were at home and to those who were here, we sincerely hope you had a happy Thanksgiving.

Basketball is causing the Peeps a lot of misery at the moment. The Dekes took the first game from us but we are still optimistic if nothing else.

Delta Phi

With Dance weekend and Thanksgiving in the back-ground, the boys in Middle Hanna have all settled down to serious study. Even the poker club, under the guidance of Tim Ryan, has taken a back seat to the books.

The few remaining men who were here over last weekend drowned their sorrows in a Saturday afternoon keg of beer. John Barnes and Dick Spencer were seen thrashing about town carrying a large white bag. Nobody knows what was in it.

Herb Ullman received only a lukewarm welcome on arrival from vacation, as he left his four-wheel personality at home.

The Chapter is pleased to announce the pledging of Dick Purvis, as well as the return of Ashly Burt to our folds from the depths of Mercy hospital.

As a note of interest, "Mole" Berler has decided to remain at Kenyon instead of joining the Canadian Air Force.

Phi Kappa Sigma

Everyone in Phi Kappa Sigma has by this time recovered from a very successful series of Dance weekend parties. Tom McCarthy's weekend was somewhat delayed but came off without too much damage to anyone. Murph's harem, which came all the way from Valparaiso, Indiana, seemed to enjoy all aspects of the Weekend; also, Theta's contribution to contributions, Al Herzing, was a guest of the chapter for Dance weekend and the following week. He reluctantly returned to the University of Iowa last Friday.

Thanksgiving weekend found several Phi Kaps traveling about the country. Jim Klosterman went to Dayton; Sherm Congdon and Chuck Tranfield went to Chicago. Murph thumbed to Valparaiso and Jerry Reese to Pittsburgh. George Lanning and Tom McCarthy visited Lakewood and Detroit.

Archon

Just one week before Dance weekend, Brother Hal Duryee returned to South Hanna and, aided considerably by most of the members, threw a two day jag the like of which has not rocked the halls of South Hanna since Roger Whiteman's twenty-first birthday party. Then Dance weekend rolled around.

On Tuesday, November 13, Professors Ed Harvey, Eric Graham, and David Ryeburn were initiated into the fraternity. Professor Bayes Norton was initiated as an honorary member at the same time.

Archons are now devoting their interests to ping-pong since the donation of a ping-pong table by pledge Russell. Ping-pong balls have been rolling in every corner of the lounge and even occasionally on the table. Pledge Fidele has taken up chess and will be glad to challenge anyone to a game.

VERNON

Something Phoney

Co-ed colleges being what, and where they are, Kenyon students have long been conscious of the grand institution that brings sister-schools within shouting distance of Kenyon—namely, long-distance telephony. So with this in mind, a COLLEGIAN reporter arrived one day last week at 15 East Gambier St., seeking Mr. George Tanner, manager of the Mount Vernon Telephone Corporation. After a short wait by a sign reading "Pay Bills Here," he was shown into a small, paneled office where Mr. Tanner, a youthful, smiling, shirt-sleeved man, greeted him. Characteristically, he had just finished a phone call.

At the outset Mr. Tanner explained that only the local lines, those to Lima (the main office) and a few other local exchanges, are owned by the corporation — long-distance lines are owned and operated by Bell Telephone. But as to service, the reporter made a few inquiries, and got a few answers. Mount Vernon Tel. admits that its switchboard is overcrowded, causing long waits at times for service, but the company is installing a new switchboard to relieve the rush, and expects to have it in operation by the beginning of next year. Overcrowding occurs most, says Tanner, at the beginning and end of the business day and in the early evening. Other improvements are pending, but cannot be predicted accurately. For instance, new lines are to be added to the eighteen now open to Columbus, but asked when, Mr. Tanner could say only, "Soon."

Mr. Tanner was quite surprised to hear that Kenyon men complained about crosstalk on their calls, which they sometimes do: He said that crosstalk had given the Corporation some trouble a few years ago, but technical changes had eliminated the difficulty, and he has had no complaints since. He expressed puzzlement about it, but assured the reporter his equipment and methods are up to date, contrary to suggestions made by Kenyon amateurs that incorrect wiring is the cause.

At Kenyon college proper, telephone equipment sometimes undergoes hard usage, and Mr. Tanner pointed out that the company attempts to be lenient with respect to replacement and service charges. But he also mentioned that Kenyon's pay phones were eighty dollars short at the end of last year. "Slugs?" was the question. "Washers, lucky coins, streetcar tokens," he said. Mr. Tanner also said the Telephone Corporation was installing a new trunk line with a more positive pulse to Gambier. He said that other new equipment had been ordered for the Gambier exchange and that the company held no grudge against Kenyon men. Then he added wistfully, "We'd just like a little fair treatment in return."

"For Love of Kenyon. . ."

College honor societies are nothing new. But here on the Hill there are twelve who feel that the guiding force behind their group is something different. They feel the Senior Society to be more than an honor society—which, in itself, would seem sufficient.

Reestablished in 1950, following a sixteen year period during which Kenyon had no Senior Society, the group is made up of a representative cross-section of the student body—men chosen for their "definite love" of the school, their popularity as well as their academic prowess, and because of active contributions made by them in Kenyon's interest. The Society's advisors, Dean Bailey and Professor Bayes Norton, were Senior Society members while students at Dartmouth and Yale, respectively. In addition to meeting with the president and the faculty council at various times in the course of the school year to discuss student affairs and problems of mutual interest in connection with activities in the school, the Society is contributing and has contributed its services to Alumni Secretary Robt. B. Brown, the De-

partment of Admissions, and to the preparations for Homecoming. Its most recent project is handling the blood bank donation program now in progress. At its last joint meeting with the president and faculty, the society considered the question of compulsory chapel attendance and credit. In the fall of each year the society selects five men from the Junior class who succeed the graduating members. Six men select five more upon their return from summer vacation. One junior or first semester senior is chosen to act as chairman for the period from that spring till fall. This year that individual is Joe Rotolo. As a result of an amendment made to its Constitution last year, voting on the Society's prospective new members is open and permits free discussion of the latter. Previous to the new amendment, balloting was closed. One dissenting vote prevents a man from gaining membership. The present members are the Society's president, Joe Taylor, its sec.-treasurer John Vernooy, Mike Bundy, Al Ballard, Grant Cooke, Marv Ellis, Jack Furniss, Stan Jackson, Fred Neidhardt, Bill Ranney and Bruce Willits.

THE ARTS

Edited by Dick Francisco

MND-Poetry As Entertainment

Above everything else, "A Midsummer Night's Dream" is a good show; "very tragical mirth," to quote Philostrate, master of revels. Shakespeare gives us songs and dances, pageantry and comedy of manners, fantasy and burlesque, low comedy and high rhetoric, resolving all into the dignity of a marriage celebration. This is accomplished by poetic and theatrical means and not by means of drama as such. The whole hangs together like a circus and a lyric poem: the parts are related by the logic of the passions and of the imagery more than by suspense or narrative sweep.

It is this subtle relation of parts which has proved a stumbling block for many producers. We have been given operas, ballets, low comedies and vulgar pageants, (Reinhardt included a half mile torchlight procession), but seldom the play in balance. Mr. Michael is presenting the play straight, with songs, dances, and clowns where they are called for and not otherwise. Fortunately eight to eleven year old boys playing spirits are more likely to stomp than to pirouette; thus we are spared the over-prettiness which is a common production fault.

True, we are left with a sense of delicate beauty when the curtain falls; but that feeling grows from the total production, not from pretty parts. The lovers are always faintly ridiculous. The fairies are mischievous as well as fanciful. Duke Theseus is a hardheaded practical man as well as a romantic. Bottom, that prince of pragmatists, walks flat footed through fairy land, demanding its residents scratch his ears and beat him out a tune on the bones. But

from the magnificence of the language as presented in these theatrically brilliant scenes, a magic grows surely and perfectly.

Nowhere are we allowed to drift off into the 'great ineffable.' The theme of the play is love and reconciliation; yet even this theme is travestied by the burlesque mechanics' play in some of the best comic verse ever written. The moon, which serves as a central image of the play, is brought forward in the first few lines; with the new moon will come the final reconciliation of the hero Theseus and his former enemy Hippolyta. There is great dignity and beauty to their coming together; but for the four lovers the new moon signifies possible tragedy—death or chastity for Hermia, heartbreak for the others. In a moon-haunted wood they play out their comedy of fancies. Yet this whole moon theme is spoofed by bringing on friend moon as a cranky mechanic, complete with bush, dog and a lantern to serve for moonlight. Again, we watch while Titania, essence of fragile loveliness (albeit tempered by a strong will and somewhat jealous disposition), plays out an absurd echo of the lovers' fancies — entranced by a complete ass.

The theatrical structure of the play is most subtle; yet the entire fifth act (the latter part of the second act as played here) is completely without dramatic, story value. At the end of act four the lovers are brought together and Oberon and Titania are reconciled; we even learn the wedding ceremonies have taken place. Yet this last act is perhaps the most satisfactory of the play. Until this point the poetry is

somehow not yet resolved. We have been told the fairies will sing. We want to know the reaction to the lovers' story. We hope to see the clowns put on their extravaganza. In short we wish to be entertained further. We are; but this is theatre, hardly drama.

In the last act all the strands of the play are elaborately woven together. Theseus, in beautiful verse, scoffs gently at the lovers' dream, but Hippolyta presents reservations. The moon and high passions (and unimaginative men) are brought on to be laughed at, as one might laugh at an over-eager bridegroom. Finally, after the jokes, the merriment, the scoffing are over, the fairies come on to bless the bridal beds. We have been shown that love is silly, stupid, and fanciful, that its objects can even be grotesque. But with the solemn lyrical ceremonies of the fairies there is brought home the magical nature of physical human love and the contradictions are thereby reconciled.

Thus we are entertained by "A Midsummer Night's Dream," if its verse and its situations are allowed to speak as Mr. Michael's group of actors has allowed them to speak. Certainly we miss the point of certain topical gags that are sprinkled through the work; sometimes the word play may be a bit forced for modern taste. But, by way of laughter and entertainment, we are given an unsentimental but fresh and delicate vision of life. That is the most remarkable fact about "A Midsummer Night's Dream;" it is a great and living poem because it is great theatrical entertainment.

LEE SUTTON

Sing Noel

Culminating weeks of after-lunch rehearsals in Peirce hall lounge, which were handicapped by Commons lunches and the discordant sound of a much abused piano, the Kenyon Singers and Choir were primed for their debut in a traditional concert of Christmas music, Sunday afternoon at four o'clock in the college chapel.

Relying heavily on Bexley students as the nucleus of his choir this year, music director Paul Schwartz has ambitiously included as the major work in this year's program the J. S. Bach cantata, "For us a Child Is Born." Sung by a mixed chorus, the work will feature the solo voices of Charles and Ruth Evans. The early and concluding portions of the program will include traditional carols, ranging from the old French, "Masters in this hall," through the 16 century, "Sing we Noel," to the

Appalachian mountain carol, "I wonder as I wander," in which Donald Hulstrand will be soloist.

The following Sunday, December 9, Dr. Schwartz's Singers and Choir join voices with the community choir of Mount Vernon for a performance of the "Messiah" at the Gay St. Methodist Church.

HIKA Debut

On December 10, the first issue of the new independent HIKA will appear. According to editor George W. Geasey III, its contents will include:

- An Appeal To The Humanities by Raymond English.
- No Vacancy, a story, by Frank Le Fever.
- Poetry by Sutton, Hecht, Wright, and Gellens.
- Comments and Review, new editorial and book sections.

In addition to editorial changes HIKA readers will notice typographical innovations designed to improve the magazine's appearance. The new HIKA will make its bow with Texttype, a clearer, sharper typeface, and with wider three column pages.

Neither Geasey nor managing editor Spieckack would comment on rumors about a monthly magazine, although they will make a statement about HIKA'S future course after Christmas. Faced with no dirth of material for the first issue, the HIKA staff is holding for future publication some manuscripts submitted but not printed in the first issue. Since these contributions are mainly poetry for the New Poets section of the second issue, however, editor Geasey reiterated that for a broader, more diversified publication, more material will be needed for the rest of the year.

With the major problems of finance and production behind it, the new HIKA faced its most important hurdle: its acceptance or rejection by its readers. The interested Kenyon man hoped that it would not be just another case of a new binding for an old volume.

Pop Survey

Confusion characterizes the popular music world today; "everyone-to-his-own-taste" is the persistent theme in would-be musical trends. Since the decline of "bop" a year ago, an older form, Dixieland, has received wide approval as part of a general 'Roaring Twenties' revival which has also brought back the Charleston and F. Scott Fitzgerald. While nobody seems to know how long this revival will last, most record manufacturers and bands are hanging on to the fence and testing the vast record-buying market with hundreds of dull reissues, mostly in the form of LP's.

In the Dixieland field, the Firehouse Five Plus Two appear to be carrying everything before them as far as national sales are concerned. This Hollywood group's banjo work compliments the less-spirited work of Les Paul, and their ensemble passages almost sound like true Dixieland. Their latest LP, on the 'Good Time Jazz' label, is very palatable even to the uninitiated.

Columbia's reissuing of the four LP albums, "Bessie Smith Story" parallels Circle Records' marketing of an earlier New Orleans artist's, that of Jelly Roll Morton. What Jelly Roll claims to have done for American jazz, Bessie actually did for the blues. She softened the shout of her predecessor, Ma Rainey, into a torchy singing style, which, though never matched for its warmth and vibrancy, has been much copied. This recording is a recommended purchase for all jazz historians.

In the vocal field Doris Day has gained a sufficient following to hold the lead over her competitors. The best of her fall releases have been "Very Good Advice" and "It's So Laughable."

Patti Page, a Kenyon favorite, is right behind Miss Day with her recording of "Detour." Another of her discs which should, but probably will not, become a big-seller features two old favorites; "One Sweet Letter," "And So To Sleep Again."

Among the male vocalists, Frankie Laine vies for leading popularity with that grandfather of "crooners," Bing Crosby. Facing family competition, Mr. Crosby has resorted to the type of song which first gained him fame; his recent recording with Tommy Dorsey of "The Girl Friend" is assured of success and will no doubt add considerably at this season to the upsurge in royalties which his perennially popular "White Christmas" earns him.

Culture Note

Overheard comment of a civic-minded entrepreneur of cultural Columbus at the recent performance of Bernard Shaw's "Don Juan in Hell" by the First Drama Quartette: "And to think they dished out four thousand bucks for that!"

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