Let There Be Light...

As a rule, Dean Bailey, President Chalmers, and, through them, the Board of Trustees make and enforce the various decisions and dogmas to which the Kenyon faculty submits itself as part of the price of an education. The faculty is generally supposed to stick to lecturing, grading, and deploring the spreading requirement of busy-ness. But now we see, for once, a case in which the faculty has taken a legislative hand — and a rather unstable hand at that. We refer to the controversial Cut Rule as it was put into effect last September and modified in November, for that rule is the responsibility of the faculty, having been passed by vote at a faculty meeting last May after recommendation by the Faculty Council.

Before World War II, a cut rule permitting the deduction of credit hours for overcuts was in effect, but it was disrupted that system. After the war, the credit-hour system no longer prevailed: the ex-GI's with their good-humored contempt for childish parietal rules revamped the colleges; and the cut rule was lost in the dust. Now, however, the ex-GI's have thinned out, and the credit-hour system has returned, dragging with it the question of cut rules, like an old dog with a thorn tied to its tail.

There are strong arguments in favor of some kind of restriction on excess cutting. While it is true that some students can maintain their grades regardless of their class attendance, it is also true that when the attendance is any class falls below a certain critical level, it is a practical impossibility for the instructor to maintain the pace and efficiency of his course. Those students who realize why they are in school, and attend classes with the serious intention of learning, are cheated by such irresponsible cutting and they deserve to have protected their right to receive the maximum value of a course. As a practical matter, the above problem usually falls only before and after school vacations, and it is these cuts that are the present rule attempts to limit. It has no effect on overcuts at other times during the year. In this respect, we feel that it is consistent and reasonable. But we have other bones to pick.

First, we object strongly to the summary way in which the rule was passed and imposed, with utter disregard for student opinion. All of the discussion of the rule took place in closed faculty meetings, whose minutes we secret. The manner in which the rule was imposed, regardless of its value, was an insult to the integrity and intelligence of every student.

Second, we object to the monetary fine, as a disciplinary device which only succeeds in juggling a figurative hot potato from one hand into the other. If irresponsible cutting is unfair to those who have not the time to waste, pecuniary penalties are unfair to those who have not the money. It has been pointed out that this is true in civic, state and national laws as well as in Kenyon, and so it is. Every fine system, from traffic violation to contempt of Congress, has inherent elements of discrimination against our less upturned citizens, but the comparison is irrelevant. We need not dispute the complexities of public law to see that a fine system of Kenyon is unnecessary and unjust. And while we're at it, we would object even more strongly to the notion of deducting points, credit-hours or any other academic credits from a student's record as a punishment for overcutting. There is no logic or justice which claims a student's academic record as bond for his personal life. Such a punishment is no more than stupid bludgeoning, reasonless and entirely out of proportion to the crime. If punishment must be imposed, it should be a sensible punishment. To be logically consistent, the cut fines should be placed at such a high rate that nobody could afford them. We do not think this is a good idea. On the contrary, we would like to see the fines abolished in favor of the infinitely more valuable "punishment" of the requirement of extra work: a short paper, an extra lab preparation, for example, to be added to the student's grade. But being realistic, we know that not all instructors would be willing to bother with the extra grading involved. Such instructors could find other, easier ways of preventing cuts simply by maintaining their lecture schedules unbotched at the critical times, and leaving the implied extra work of "catching up," to those students who cut them. These suggestions, it may be seen, do not lend themselves to a centralized administration, and that is precisely our last point.

We feel that the responsibility for controlling cuts should rest in the hands of each individual faculty member — for his own classes only. Many schools, we are told, have central cut rules, ours being not unusual either in scope or severity. On the other hand, many schools (like M.I.T., Harvard and Chicago) have virtually no cut rules in practice, but they still manage to remain accredited institutions.

When will our Faculty and Administration legislators start practicing the democratic treatment they preach? Will the poor Midwestern college lad find happiness as the serf of the Gambier noblemen? To be continued.

... and in conclusion, gentlemen, I propose that turnstiles be placed at exits of all College buildings!
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LETTERS
A Call to Arms
Editor of the Collegian:
During the past semester, many of my friends have written letters in this column, vigorously protesting the various revolting practices which are so popular in this Christian college. In declaring their objection to such revered Kenyon institutions as aseptic vandalism, drunken brawls, and other sublimations of natural lust, they found themselves with a host of agnomens, cognomens, and divers other denominations of an invention highly compatible with the nature of the participants in said practices. It was evident to persons of sensibility and intelligence who was in the right; but such persons were in the extreme minority.

Nevertheless, the letters have been written and if they have not been effective, at least the promulgation of them has been valuable. It is fitting, I think, to memorize their spirit and to propagate their intent in a wider and possibly more fertile field, namely, the whole race of Americans and the climate of their thought, the elements of which have had more than a vacuous effect on our lives at this school.

Smugness is my primary issue here, not because it is abnormall but rather because it is an invoracious portion of us, an evil and deplorable portion. For it is more than phenomenal that man vaunts himself prodigiously in those things in which he is most deficient. The shallowest among us swells with the thought of his own profundity; the most sterile is proudest of his fructiveness; the sinner is first to cast the sharpest stone. Smugness is wont to accompany all of man's base-ness, and therein lies its basest ingredient.

The state of fine arts in America is a sufficient example. It presents a magnificent opportunity for satire, but it seems a pity to vent sarcasm on such obvious inconsistency, such farce. For although I do not want to belittle the several rich and flourishing talents in our culture, it is not difficult to observe the ludicrous contrasts in this country between pride and production. Production is limited to mere technological advance; real native creativity is wanting. Even our most distinguished musicians are foreign. But the disturbing and dangerous aspect of the state lies in our obnoxious arrogance. With all we buy and all we have, we really have very little that is important; yet in spite of that, we are maddeningly smug and childishly

chauvinistic. To our own minds, Americans are creative, resourceful, and level. In reality, we are decadent, shallow, and desperately beshirted. Shaw has called us a nation of Villagers, 100% American and 99% idiot. We should be deeply hurt by that, but we say that it is unmerited. Are our cultural circumstances despicable? One needs only to point out the startling evidence. David Diamond, licentiate capable and potentially one of the firsts of the future to be dishwater and restaurant grease to be manuscript paper on which he wrote in a rented room; George Antheil, already accomplished, fought not a sympathy or help among his own people and was driven abroad to find life in Europe. Kenyon College, as well as other schools, is a cesspool of the typical and pernicious attitudes. And the list goes on. Some "loafs" of administration make no step out of academicism's chains and conventions to counteract any of this poison. I strongly suspect that they have little desire to do so. The antithesis will be their life's blood.

(Continued on Page 5)

A World in Transition
Philosophically, the Modernist school is fervently devoted to the snuffing out of all forms of artificiality and convention. Therefore, the functional and aesthetic philosophy is a necessity of the Modernist art and style. It is the duty of all artists to be continually striving for the highest expression of themselves in their art. The Modernist art and style are the only way to achieve this goal.

A Market for the Future
A market for the future is needed for the development of American industry. The current economic situation is ripe for the creation of a new market that will allow for the growth of American industry. Such a market could be created by the government through the use of incentives and subsidies. This would provide the necessary impetus for the growth of industry and the creation of jobs.

A Business in Need
A business in need is the key to success in American industry. It is essential that a business in need be identified and addressed in order to achieve success. This requires the dedication of the business leaders and the support of the government. With a strong focus on the needs of the business, American industry can achieve success.

A Reason for Belief
A reason for belief is the foundation of faith. It is the belief that allows us to trust in the things that we cannot see or understand. This is the reason why we have faith in the things that we cannot see.

A Lesson in American History
A lesson in American history is the study of the past. It is the understanding of the events that have shaped our nation. This study allows us to learn from the mistakes of the past and to avoid repeating them in the future.
A Winter Vacation

The nation-wide flu epidemic struck the Mount Vernon school system with full force, according to figures released by the Mount Vernon school board. Approximately thirty per cent of the school children of Knox county were afflicted with either influenza or pneumonia during the week of February 18-23. The large amount of absences led to the closing of the Mount Vernon public schools for that period.

However, the situation now seems to be gradually improving. All the schools reopened on Monday, February 25, with about twenty per cent of the students not answering roll-call. School officials believe that the worst of the epidemic is over, and that there will be no need to close the schools again in the future. Students of high school age were not affected by the epidemic as much as those in the lower grades, particularly those in the first three years of elementary school.

A Meeting of the Elite

Phi Beta Kappa had its annual initiation for seven members of the class of 1952 in President Chalmers' office at three-thirty P.M. on Friday, February 22. Dr. Richard Salonen presided over the ceremonies in the absence of Dr. Chalmers. Those initiated were: Fred Nehard, George Christ, George Laning, Al Ballard, Dave Lodbee, Pete Mehter, Cliff Hagem and Howard Humes, who wasn't present for he is serving in the Armed Forces. The initiation took place earlier this year, membership being announced at the Honors Day Convocation with the initiation being held a few days later. At the dinner, which was held in the private dining room of Mr. Colen Roberts, the Oxford Don, an eminent paleontologist, was the guest of honor. Mr. Roberts is a close friend of Dr. Frederick Kenyon, also a prominent paleontologist, and one of the few remaining members of the Kenyon Family.

That evening, at eight o'clock in Philomathian Hall, Mr. Roberts gave the annual Phi Beta Kappa lecture. His topic was: "The How and Why of the Modern Book," which dealt largely with the evolution of the ancient scroll to the notebook, or codex. Mr. Roberts pointed out that the literature of the Augustan era was predominantly preserved on the papyrus scroll, this system being long retained as an indication of conservatism and even gentility. But when the despotism of autocracy or monarchy, coupled with civilization's increasing awareness of history and the need for recording it, took the stiffness out of the scroll's dignity and began coming into its own, Julius Caesar, obviously caught between the tradition of the old and the convenience of the new forms, chose to write on both sides of the scroll.

The earliest notebooks were kept because they were easier to conceal, easier to consult and had their sentimental and symbolic value. St. Paul's comments on the Old Testament were preserved on a parchment notebook, and the subsequent Christian canon was approved by the additional capacity of the codex format. The possession of libraries was facilitated by the adoption of the notebook, although a cultural regression was considered prevalent during the third century A. D., for the roll remained symbolic of the ancient culture. The following, almost universal adoption of the codex was appealing to an age that turned toward law and authority for security.

The decline of the financial and cultural levels of the Renaissance gave impetus to the codex form which stood as the symbol of the coming age of the Church and the Law.

Edited by Mel Plotinsky

A Worshipped Nation

The Social Committee of the Bexley Society has introduced a new feature to the seminar's social program. On February 24 and 25 the Middler Class sponsored a "Midwinter Dance." The event was the result of a successful effort by President Chalmers to bring students together. The weekend included a social hour of Saturday afternoon in the Bishop Leonard Room of Bexley Hall, followed by Evening Prayer at the Church of the Holy Spirit. The Saturday night program began with a Bexley Family banquet in the Peirce Hall private dining room. This was followed by dancing from nine to twelve in the lounge, with much fun being had by the "Three Moods" from Columbus.

The single men provided themselves with dates for the occasion from house to house or from nearby Denison University and Wooster College. As far as is known, this dance was the first of its kind in Bexley society. It serves as an example of the variety of activity that has resulted from an increased interest in the Bexley Society's social program.

Edited by Bruce Pennington

Deltas Tou Deltas

The Wright Thing To Do

By action of the Kenyon College Board of Trustees the building which houses the infirmary facilities for the College has been designated the Charles C. Wright House in honor of Charles C. Wright of Cleveland, who was instrumental in having infirmary facilities installed at Kenyon in 1943. Mr. Wright, also the donor to the Kenyon Faculty of the "Wright Parties," occasions of music and refreshments, died in April of last year.

Delta Phi

Phi's plans for the Sophomore Dance seem likely to include a combo party in the afternoon, and set-ups and beer in the evening.

The Pledge-Active Party last Saturday was a roaring (?) success. Once more, the central attraction and entertainment was provided by the presence of a select group of Delta Gammas from Denison. The intoxication rendered such femininity, together with that of more liquid nature, i.e., Fish House Punch, was sufficient to assure a good time for all.

The Chapter is most happy to announce the initiation of Professor Hoyt Landon Warner into Delta Phi. The ceremony took place Sunday afternoon and was followed by a dinner party at the Curtis.

Sigma Pi

We are very happy and proud to announce the pledging of Cary Warner and Gus Dallas, and we extend them our congratulations.

The Peeps held a dinner banquet in the private dining room of Peirce Hall on Feb. 28 in celebration of Founder's Day and the 150th of Sigma Pi. Following the meal and business meeting a smoker was held in the parlor with songs and beer, furnishing the entertainment.

We would like to congratulate the Deltas, on their winning the basketball championship.

LOCAL NEWS

February 29, 1952
Lords of Kenyon

Sophomore Albert Eastman, an outstanding swimmer for Kenyon the past two seasons, gained his first swimming experience at a summer camp when he was eight years old. Since then he has developed into one of the finest swimmers Kenyon College has seen. Al first began competitive swimming when he was at University School in Shaker Heights, Ohio. There as a freshman, he competed in the 100 yard free style event.

The next three years, Al attended Hebron Academy located at Hebron, Maine. Under the expert guidance of the co-captain for the William's varsity swimming team, Al improved steadily. He participated in the 50 and 100 yard events in his first two years. In his final year, Al began swimming the 200 yard free style event. After the completion of the regular season at Hebron, Al competed in the New England Inter-scholarship Swimming Championships held at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where the swimmers from the various prep schools of New England gathered. In the 200 yard event, Al finished fourth while Hebron Academy swam as a team, ending third.

During the summer before coming to Kenyon, Al entered the Cleveland Heights Invitational where he finished second in the 200, and third in the back stroke. During his freshman year at Kenyon, he swam in 220 and 440 yard free style events, the final relay, and occasionally the back stroke. In both the 220 and 440 yard events, "Drapo" was undefeated, and in most cases he was not pressed by his opponents. If the rules had allowed him to enter more than three events, he could have become a consistent winner in the back stroke.

Last April, he entered the A. A. U. meets at Cleveland where the best swimmers from northeastern Ohio, northern Indiana and western Pennsylvania competed. Despite this rugged competition, Al placed fourth in the 440.

This season, although the team has been plagued by many misfortunes, Al has continued his winning ways. He did suffer a controversial defeat at Ohio University in the 440, when he was disqualified for an illegal turn. At Baldwin-Wallace, Al set the pool record in the 440 at a fraction better than 5:18.

The greatest thrill Al had this season was defeating an old rival, Frank Matter of Case. At the A. A. U. meets, Matter placed third in the 440, one place ahead of Al, but Al avenged this defeat with two victories over Matter when Kenyon swam against Case this year.

Al and team mate Herb Ullman, Kenyon's brilliant diver and 50 yard free styler, may compete in an invitational tournament at Bowling Green on March 8th. This tournament is considered the Central Collegiates and includes all schools in the midwest with the exception of the Big Ten. These two could very easily bring more glory to Kenyon athletics. Since Al is only a sophomore, the future of Kenyon's swimming team looks bright, and it is the hope of everyone that next season won't be so unpredictable. This year, Coach Passini was very certain who would be able to swim the various events. Nevertheless, he always was able to count on one of the most dependable of the Lords of Kenyon, Monsieur Eastman.

A Dual Victory

The intramural basketball season came to a close with the Delt's on top again. They took a three game playoff to win. In the first playoff game, the Delt's, led by Ron Ryan, gained the upper hand by 22 points, beat the Beta's 32-10. Dick Thomas threw in 14 for the losing team, but his teammates could only add five more.

In the second game the Delt's continued their winning ways beating the Alpha Delta's 42-24, Ryan again leading the way with 17 points. Hayden chipped in 9 and Craig 8. Bottin of the Alpha Delta's hooped 16 out of his team's 24. In the final playoff game to determine second place, the Alpha Delta's beat the Beta's in a thriller 25-22. Leading all the way 10-4, 12-6, 14-14, and 23-23 at the finish. Kiger was high man for the Alpha Delta's with 8 and Bottin had 7. McGowen and Thomas each had 6 for the Beta's.

And They're Off

Kenyon's annual indoor track season opened Saturday with a practice meet at Denison. The Lords were under-manned in practically every event, but a little chance of winning, but those who did participate did well and are to be complimented.

The track team this year is actually superior since it is not supported by the school financially, but is the coach, provided by the school. Joe Lee, however, a Beckley man who, in his undergraduate days at Trinity College, was an outstanding runner, kindly volunteered to coach the team. Tom Butcher and Ken Campbell then did much of the early recruiting necessary to get the team started. This job was made really difficult by the fact that no meets were scheduled or even in sight, but Mr. Stiles solved this problem by arranging the Denison meet and four others dates to be announced. To make the team complete, Jerry Reese returned to his "Life-Time at Kenyon" position as track manager.

The results of the Denison meet are as follows:


440 Yd. Dash: No place for Kenyon.

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| E. M. | 11 | 1 |
| S. L. | 10 | 3 |
| Harcourt | 6 | 4 |
| Bexley | 5 | 4 |
| M. H. | 5 | 4 |
| E. D. | 4 | 4 |
| S. H. | 3 | 7 |
| N. H. | 3 | 7 |
| N. L. | 2 |
| W. W. | 2 |
| M. K. | 2 |

The Collegian
Sunset on Winterset

After the performances of "Winterset" last week, I listened to the comments of the playwrights; this seemed to be the consensus of opinion: "poor play...fine production." Although some dissented, most thought very little of Anderson's verse drama. However, it is not my purpose to discuss the merits of the material but to consider what the cast did within the limits of that material.

I submit that the Dramatic Club gave a superb performance and much surpassed its handling of "Midsummer Night's Dream." It is enough for me to commend highly the members of the cast and those who were in other ways responsible for the success of the performance.

There were four really outstanding performances. Louis Everstine, in the leading role of Mio, gave the staidest and probably most brilliant delivery. The second was that of Lee Sutton, who was splendid as Eadras, a little quavery at moments, but always natural and compelling, even in the final acting of a hard part to play. Gaunt, in Mort Segall's interpretation, was a third fine character, shifting with ease from torrent and madness to caprice and then to arrogance.

Surprisingly enough, the fourth performance which I considered outstanding is that of a minor character. One of the best things about the play was the supporting cast, but Sy Weissman, portraying the Radical in the crowd scene, stood above the rest; he exploited all the humor in his lines, and helped to make the crowd scene the best in the whole production.

The best part of the whole play for me, however, was not in the acting but in two aspects of production. First, the set designed by James Keegan and second, the make-up job by Frank LeFever. And of course, one cannot overlook Mr. Michael's direction which accounted for a good deal of the performance's success. The most disappointing part of the four nights was the audience. They were very disinterested, their rudeness reaching its greatest point at the most tragic moments. A little discretion would have been appropriate.

—I. Mezey

I am disappointed that Mr. Mezey has shirked his responsibility as a critic by not remarking on the content of Anderson's play, for it certainly deserves comment. By delving into the reviews on its initial performance we found plentiful criticism of what Anderson attempted to do and what he actually achieved in this play. We would most heartily agree with those critics, who, at the time found it cheap farcical melodrama with poetic pretensions. One need only recall the shoddy theatrical ending of the play, bodies piling up on the stage as the father is forced to make his last speech in chorus fashion much too soon after the third act's sudden burst of action Shakespearean. Unlike Christopher Fry, who also seeks to emulate Shakespeare, Anderson lacks the intellectual ability and situation to sound words; if he persists further in verse plays he should learn from Mr. Eliot's example, and rely on conversational diction morally arranged.

The social message of "Winterset" hardly deserves comment. Like Ode to a Golden Hour, one of which the Dramatic club unfortunately under-
took last year, Anderson's message has become dated and rather meaningless in the 1950's. One wonders why so much potentially good talent wasted time trying to impart artistic merit to anything of such transitory importance. It makes "Winterset" about as significant as the poetic propaganda which Archibald Mac Leish so profoundly turned out during the war. While art must deal with permanent and lasting human situations, of which the idea of justice is clearly one, Anderson is more concerned with "radical" and power policies; thus in an age of "red bashing" and corruption in government it hardly interests us that the National Biscuit Co. can persuade city hall to rope off 8th Avenue while a group of tentment dwellers can not even dance in the street.

We must severely castigate the Dramatic Club for producing "Winterset," we credit it with more discriminating taste. Its choice of "Golden Boy" last year was assigned to experience, but the production of "Winterset" is inexcusable. We sympathize with their need to choose plays with large casts predominately male, but we feel that plays of the 1930's are an erroneous choice. Finally we deplore the club's reliance on one Elizabethan play each season to guarantee a reputation which could be even further enhanced by more judicious choice.

Perhaps the predominant attitude of the present generation toward the arts of the past twenty years was best expressed by a recent alumnus who returning to see "Winterset," commented: "the fun loving twenties fascinated us, but the intensely serious thirties are just plain embarrassing."

In answer to Mr. Mezey's final remarks I would reply that an audience reacts to a play as it is presented to them by playwright and actors, and if they are reasonably intelligent their reaction is far more telling than the critic's analysis.

—Crites

CULTURE NOTE

Delving into the library archives last week the Collegian produced the authentic title for the Calder mobile on the first anniversary of its acquisition by the college. Eponymously dubbed "The Thing," its initial appearance provoked a student parade consisting of soup cans and old wallets, which graced the beams of the vaulted Norton room for many weeks. New title: "Vertical White Frame, 1930."

Next to be covered is an earlier "White Frame." (1930) which is motorized.

LETTERS

(Continued from page 2)

We have seen the results. Everywhere, all of the time, slowly the poison the whole blood stream fills. A man stands in the senate, unadmonished before the scions of scratch, the agents of moneyed aggrandizers, and suggests an innovation, a change in a system so lucrative to so few. Senator ... (but more ...)

The magazine in Kenyon College publishing the work of young writers loses its already tiny financial support; Kenyon cheers . . . a high and serious inquisition wreaks its vicarious pursuit on us . . . we wait for an inevitable conclusion; all is well . . . we are led by Mister Average Man (for whom we find justification in the Holy Bible: "A little child shall lead them") and by hordes of stupid, venal, and faithless ones; we love them and pray for them . . . the country is vised in a painless and comfortable kind of strangle; we are fat and content . . . there is bread and circuses; the crowd claps.

We are in the winter of our civilization.

You are the sons of Kenyon and the fathers of tomorrow; but to this day you are cuckold. Your servants are your masters and they are making your world. If you have felt no pain and no fury over the crazy course of our life, then you can keep your narrow and cherished principles, your dear insane traditions. But if those of you to whom I register this protest have more than natural flesh and bone, gut and crave, then you may have eyes to see and brains to understand and hands to act . . . and they have lain fallow far too long.

—Robert Mezey
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