

# The Glenville Mercury

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Glenville State College, Glenville, W. Va.

Wednesday, March 24, 1965



Jerry Stover, Bill Monk, and Gene Nesbitt do "The End of the World" from the English review "Beyond the Fringe", directed by Harold Dougherty for the Little Kanawha Regional High School Drama Festival held here last Wednesday. (MER-photo by Limpert)

## The Beers Family Ad Libs, Winning Favor at GSC

By DENNIS MYERS

For those of you who saw The Beers Family last March 9, the performance came as quite a surprise. Everyone was expecting the family to walk out on stage and begin a carefully planned routine with great precision.

On the contrary the performers walked out and took their places in lounge chairs on the stage. Making themselves at home, the Beers began making witty remarks with the intent of relaxing the audience.

Instead of singing each song one after another, Bob inserted impromptu statements which often sent the audience rolling with laughter. Even the serious portions of the program were done with skill that one would normally see only in the home.

This family had done this sort of thing all their lives in the homes of friends and relatives, and in the midst of the Glenville students they changed none of the formalities.

When asked, "do you believe folk singing is a gaining or losing art?" Marty replied, "I believe folk singing is both a gaining and a losing art. Commercial music is becoming less popular while folk lore is very interesting because it has more meaning. There is a lot more to learn."

Evelyne remarks, "Folk music will never be anything but what it is. I feel that we are preserving cultural heritage. The pop folklore will die off like the finger-snapping music fad."

Bob asserts, "This is an art of three categories. One loses; one gains. The pop folklore is actually a brand of popular music. The artist must alter and reword many of their songs. Tradition is coming to the front right now."

To the question, "Do you believe folk singing is cheapened by commercials?" Marty answered,

"Commercial groups are good and they do it tastefully." She feels that they do not actually harm folk music.

Evelyne says, "Commercial singing destroys tradition. I believe folk music should be performed more widely and in true tradition."

All three members of the group like to perform before a college audience better than any other. Marty says, "I like to perform before a college audience because they are my own age, and because I am able to bring these traditions to my own age group and help them learn about the real America."

Evelyne added, "I'm really not sure. The commercial audience buy tickets about a year in advance and come to see the performers. They expect 'long-hair folk music,' a ballad or a sing with significance to the English language. We must be very well prepared. However, colleges are informal and we can do what the situation needs."

Bob likes the college audience best. He says, "They are livelier and more interested." For the commercial audience he is forced to leave out verses to "please social impact." He feels that "young people spring from tradition and are ashamed of their root. Tradition is something that should be held with great pride."

Marty is a young blond with large blue eyes. She stayed home most of her younger years with friends, but, as her interest grew, she began traveling with the family in the summer. Marty has traveled in 36 states in the past year as well as Canada. In her lifetime she has visited 48 of the 50 states—Alaska and Hawaii being the only ones missed. In September Miss Beers will enter the School of Art and Drama, Arkan-

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## Drama Festival Hosts ENGLISH POETRY IS DISCUSSED Plays on Campus

By HAROLD DOUGHERTY

Six schools from the Little Kanawha Region presented plays for the Little Kanawha Regional High School Drama Festival at the GSC stage Wednesday, March 17.

The LKR Council has sponsored the festival in cooperation with dramatics teachers and principals of its nine-member counties since 1952 when it assisted Ravenswood High School's Thespian Troupe and Alumnae in starting the festival as a promotion of dramatics in schools.

Mrs. Sallie Park of Ravenswood is chairman of the LKR High School Drama Festival Committee. She has served in this capacity since 1952. Mrs. Park asked Mr. J. Rodney Busch, GSC instructor of speech and dramatics, and Miss Elizabeth Fowler to be critic-judges of the Festival.

Miss Fowler is a former actress and drama teacher and has attended Bryn Mawr School, Baltimore, Maryland; graduated from National Park Junior College, Forest Glen, Maryland; and Park College. She has also studied at the American Academy of Dramatic Art, the United States Secretarial School, and Columbia University, all of New York. She has played in several productions of The University Repertory Theatre and Vagabond Players.

Starting the day's drama program was Spencer High School at ten o'clock with their production of *Two Crooks and a Lady* by Eugene Pillot, directed by Miss Peggy Dye; next came Ravenswood High School with Doris Estrada's comedy *Three On a Bench*, directed by Mrs. Ruth Doyle; Parkersburg High School directed by Mrs. Grace-Marie Merrill presented *The Lesson* by the French author Eugene Ionesco; *Night Scene* by Dave Stanley was performed by St. Marys High School under the direction of Mrs. Judith Webb.

After Miss Fowler and Mr. Busch's comments the session was adjourned for lunch and reconvened at 1:30 for *The Dark Corner*, by Lyda Nagel presented by Normantown High School, directed by Mrs. Lucille Butler; followed by Calhoun County High

School's production of *Oil Wells and Wedding Bells*, directed by Mr. James R. Jones; also attending was Wirt County High School with a group of observers.

After the bill of plays a Coke Hour was held at Louis Bennett Lounge and Ohningohow Players presented a program. Using the style of Theatre Underground, the Players introduced the students of the various high schools to dramatics on the college level. Bill Monk served as master of ceremonies, presenting Sally Nelson, accompanied by Judy Musgrave, singing "Moon River" from *Breakfast at Tiffany's*.

Bill Monk, Gene Nesbitt, Jerry Stover and Harold Dougherty were seen in three scenes from the English review *Beyond the Fringe*, produced and directed by Dougherty for Play Production 224. The high school students then suggested several improvisations which were performed by Sandy Monroe, Jack Brown, Gene Nesbitt, Bill Monk and Harold Dougherty. Finishing the show, David Morris presented a trio of triad-

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## Scientific Talk Given By Gast

On Wednesday, Mar. 10, at 4:00 p.m., in the college auditorium, Dr. Robert G. Gast of the University of Tennessee spoke to about 100 students on the subject of "The Rate of Ionic Diffusion in Soils." The program was under the direction of the science department of GSC.

Dr. Gast gave a very interesting talk and used slides to illustrate his explanations. He defined diffusion and talked about the diffusion of ions through the soil to the root of a plant.

Dr. Gast received his Ph. D. in soil chemistry from the University of Tennessee. He is presently employed to do research for the Atomic Energy Commission Agricultural Research Laboratory at Oak Ridge, Tennessee. This research laboratory is under the direction of the University of Tennessee.

Professor Duncan Williams, a graduate of Oxford University and presently professor at West Virginia Wesleyan College, spoke to the Glenville Literary Society about Dylan Thomas, a contemporary English poet. The meeting was held Mar. 13 in Louis Bennett Lounge.

Professor Williams began speaking by saying that the paper which he would be presenting would not be academic but rather would tend to give some impressions of Thomas. While reading selections of Thomas' poetry, Williams attempted to assume the character and personality of Thomas.

Dylan Thomas, while in New York, once declared that he was a Welshman, a drunkard, and a heterosexual. It was these three aspects of Thomas that Professor Williams presented.

Thomas was from Wales, a country described as being not wholly unlike West Virginia. Thomas himself pictured Carmarthenshire, his native town, as an "ugly lovely town. . ."

Thomas was a colorful student. He read and was influenced by Lawrence, Joyce, Melville, Blake, the Metaphysical poets of the seventeenth century, the French symbolists, and Freud.

As a drunkard, Thomas was chronically hard-up. His drinking brought about his death in 1953. He considered beer to be an adjunct to conversation.

Professor Williams read a six line Welsh poem by Thomas to demonstrate the effectiveness of the rhythm used in Thomas' poetry. Although Thomas could not make moral judgments, his poetry reflects a love of man and a praise of God. Thomas' sense of humor pervades much of his poetry. There is death in his poetry; the transcendence of human life is reflected. Tears and sadness to the Welsh are never far from joy and happiness. Thomas himself had both a desire and a fear of death. He said that "time held me green and dying."

Last, as a heterosexual, Thomas lived a tragic biography. He felt that he was doomed and that nothing could change this. Even though he had a wife and children who were in constant need, Thom-

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Evelyne, Bob, and Martha Beers exhibit a warmth and informality that was well received by those who attended their concert in the GSC auditorium. (MER-photo by Hall)

# Letter to the Editor

Dear Miss Musgrave:

It seems to us a sorry state of affairs that when one places a poster on a bulletin board he must also attach to it a small index card begging and pleading with students not to remove the poster before the event or deface it by drawing mustaches on the pictures or writing obscene comments about the event on it.

We are convinced that those who do such things probably will not be with us much longer, for their stay in college is usually a short one. But it is unfortunate that the effect of these few reflect on the whole student body.

This situation can never be cured by policing the bulletin boards. Only by privately censoring those responsible can the serious student maintain a campus of meaning and purpose.

Yours very truly,  
The Science Club

## View of The Middle East

By SALAH YACCOUB

In a secondary school in the Middle East, the principal wanted to find out what impression the graduating class had of the United States of America—one of the leading countries of the world today. Hardly had he completed his question, when a soft voice was heard from the back of the class asking, "Don't all Americans live in skyscrapers, Sir?"

Unfortunately, millions of people around the world have such distorted views of life in the United States. From the movies, the radio, and periodicals, an impression is given that Americans live in a world of skyscrapers and night clubs.

Arabs feel that similar distortions are held by many honest persons regarding the Arab way of life. Romantic writers and film directors have given the term "Arab" a connotation which often is misleading. Very often the word "Arab" conjures up visions of picturesque, bearded nomads, plodding across the desert on camel caravans or racing over the sand in a tribal raid.

Such a picture is romantic, but it gives a wrong impression of what Arabs are. In addition, there has been and still is a blind spot in American thinking about the Middle East, because the Arab peoples—their history, their culture, their present problems, their reactions to Communism, to Zionism, to Western democracy—are so inadequately understood among Americans. Because there is such a misunderstanding, I feel there is a great need for making this direct appeal, in a series of articles, to the Glenville State College community.

A better understanding of the Arabs will help one to realize the injustice that has been inflicted upon them. It is also hoped that this series of articles will awaken the students to the critical importance of events in the Middle East, for what happens there is certain to have a determinative effect upon mankind's future.

The Middle Eastern situation is, no doubt, of vital concern to the United States. When the United States policies there blunder, the results can be deplorable. Whatever the Americans' pre-conceived opinions may be, it is hoped that such informed insights will be welcomed by the student body and will succeed in building a better understanding between the people of the United States and the Arab peoples. Without such understanding there will be only a slim hope for peace the world over.

## DZ'S GO TO HUNTINGTON

Theta Xi Chapter of Delta Zeta Sorority will attend West Virginia State Day in Huntington, on March 27, with the Marshall Chapter, Delta Epsilon, as hostess. The convention headquarters will be the Uptowner Inn. Workshops for the alumnae and collegiate members will be held during the day.

Mrs. Gertrude Meatheringham, Delta Zeta National Deputy, and the Lexington, Kentucky, Alumnae Chapter, as well as the members of the Alpha Theta Chapter at the University of Kentucky, will be honored guests at the convention.

State Day will be climaxed with a luncheon and the presentation of chapter and individual awards. The collegiate chapters will be vying for the scholarship, attendance, and press book trophies.

A panel consisting of Mrs. Jesse Lilly, Mrs. Byron Turner, Miss Virginia West, Mrs. Jon Wink, and Miss Eima Jean Woofert presented a discussion on the "Well-rounded Personality" as a Standards Program at the March 1 meeting. The advisers spoke about the social, intellectual, physical, spiritual and cultural aspects of one's personality. After the presentation, the panel answered questions presented by the DZ's.

Delta Zeta also presented a dessert for the Theta Xi Fraternity on March 10.

## Drama Students Present Skits

During the term ten members of the speech and drama department have cast and are preparing five one-act plays in connection with Play Production 224. Of these five plays the three outstanding ones will be presented during an evening of one-act plays, Tuesday, March 30, from 8:00 to 10:00 p.m., in the GSC auditorium for the admission of 25 cents per person.

The bill of one-acts will be chosen from Edna St. Vincent Millay's "Aria da Capo," co-directed by Judy Musgrave and Dolores Brown; Eugene Ionesco's "The Leader," co-directed by Harold Dougherty and Ellis Walenburg; Norman Walsh's "Let There Be Farce," co-directed by Sharon Meade and Nancy Reed; Tennessee Williams' "Lord Byron's Love Letter," co-directed by Tom Hawkins and Mike Samson; and George Kaufman's "Still Alarm," co-directed by Shirley Dougherty and Jerry Stover.

Casts for these plays are: Aria da Capo—Loretta Dwelle, Sue Black; The Leader—Bill Monk, Gene Nesbitt, Helen Cunningham,

## Rabbi Sundheim To Speak Here

Rabbi Frank N. Sundheim of Ohav Sholom Congregation of Huntington will visit Glenville State College on Tuesday, March 30, to deliver two lectures. The subject of his first lecture, sche-



RABBI FRANK N. SUNDHEIM

duled for 9:05 a.m., will be "The Life and Times of Jesus—a Jewish View."

At 11:15 a.m. Rabbi Sundheim's subject will be "Israel—Its Meaning to Jew and Christian." Both lectures will be given in Louis Bennett Lounge and are open to all who wish to attend.

The Rabbi's lectures on college campuses are under the auspices of the Jewish Chautauqua Society, an organization for the creation of better understanding of Jews and Judaism through education.

## 13 Pledging Fraternity

Theta Xi's spring pledge period has officially begun with 13 men carrying the blue and white brick and wearing the neophyte book.

These men are David Bennett, Weston; Douglas Bunn, Huntington; John Brown, Glenville; Robert Cooper, Sutton; Richard Dawson, Parkersburg; James Haddox, St. Marys; Ronald Hicks, Glenville; Thomas Lipps, Jane Lew; Delbert Murphy, Richwood; Clifton Neal, East Rainelle; William Piercy, Weston; Richard Polk, Murrays; and Leo Ours, Jr., Huntington.

These men will pledge Theta Xi until May 1, at which time they will be formally initiated.

Theta Xi is making continued improvement on the house and grounds with some remodeling being done on the upstairs portion of the house.

On March 13, Theta Xi held a St. Patrick's Day party with Theta Xi's, guests, and Delta Zeta Sorority.

Future plans for Theta Xi includes some outdoor parties when the weather permits, with the hopes that all Greek organizations can attend. The traditional closed "Iris Ball" will be held on May 22. Plans for the dance are already being made by a committee led by Michael Linthicum, composed of Franklin Davis, Arlen Hunt, and Dave Boso.

The dance will be for Theta Xi actives, alumni, and special guests only. For Theta Xi's this dance and banquet puts the final touch on the years activities.

Cheryl Fisher, Steve Spicer; Let There Be Farce—Donna Leigh Mills, Candy Stalnaker, Woody Wilson; Lord Byron's Love Letter—Larry Frisbee, Sharon Meade, Sandra Monroe, Pat Britton; Still Alarm—Robert Minnie-weather, Carlton Spicer, Bill Fulmer, Garland Tenney, Sally Nelson.

Mr. J. Rodney Busch has also announced that tryouts for Jit Bush's "Junkmen" will be held at 3:30 p.m. April 12 and 13 in the Underground Theatre.

# Company Disregards Rules and Stages Hit

DR. JACK S. BEMIS

"Opera in English Can Be Fun." This slogan, proudly emblazoned on the truck which carries the National Opera Company's scenery, would seem to contain great truth, especially for those here who witnessed their March 4th production of *The Barber of Seville*. The missionary zeal implied in this credo made many converts among those who may have previously thought opera to be an alien artistic medium.

Rossini's comic masterpiece is an excellent vehicle for such a grass-roots approach, being both a perennial popular favorite and a significant work of art. While by no means the equal of, for instance, its companion piece, Mozart's "Marriage of Figaro," it has beguiled audiences for the past 150 years with its sparkling music, comic situations, and appealing characters. All these aspects were admirably treated by the National Opera Company in its performance at Glenville State College.

There is considerable truth in the old saw that opera in many European countries occupies the same place that movies or tele-

vision do in America. While not every waiter or gondolier can sing all the arias of Verdi or Wagner, opera does have a popular appeal similar to our Broadway musicals. It would be safe to call Rossini the Richard Rodgers of his day, since, unlike poor Mozart, he gleaned a fortune from his operas and was able to retire while very young.

It is equally true that, outside of a few large cities, opera has hardly gained a toehold in this country, where it is the almost exclusive province of the much-cartooned dowagers (dragging reluctant husbands to opening nights) and a handful of noisy students in the upper reaches of the balcony.

Although English is not as vocally graceful as Italian, it must be admitted that a major deterrent to the gaining of a real affection for opera is the language barrier. However, I reserve the right to refer to certain arias by their better-known Italian titles. Furthermore, it must be pointed out that few recorded versions of opera in English are available, an important point when one has no access to live performances.

Always a magical moment in (Continued on Page 3)



It takes no stretch of the imagination to picture Rossini's pretty Rosina in "The Barber of Seville" when she is portrayed by as lovely a girl as the National Opera Company's Mary Lois Taylor. (MER-photo by Hodges)

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# GSC Girls Down A-B 50-17 in Return Tilt

Saturday afternoon, March 13, the women's basketball team played their second game of the year, a return match with Alderson-Broadbuddus in the GSC gymnasium.

Although neither team played outstanding ball, Glenville overwhelmed the Alderson-Broadbuddus team 50-17.

The starting line-up for Glenville was Garnet Duffy, Roberta Downs, Sandy Given, Carol Knapp, Brenda Shedaker, and Patsy Fields. Grace Skypper, Judy Matheny, Sharon Giffings, Lori Aklonis, Miss Rord, and Miss Wilfong were the beginning players for A-B.

In the first quarter of the game the GSC girls scored 10 points while A-B scored only 5. Eight fouls were charged against Glenville in this quarter. Roberta Downs, rover for Glenville, had three fouls. A-B had only three fouls against them.

In the second quarter, Glenville scored eleven more points for a score of 21, with 10 for A-B.

In the second half of the game several substitutions were made. Linda Beale replaced Carol Knapp; Eileen Gross replaced Ann Priester, who had been substituted earlier; Roberta Downs, who was taken out in the first half, was sent back to replace Garnet Duffy.

At the end of the third quarter Glenville had 35 points to 15 for A-B. Alderson-Broadbuddus' best players were not hitting. They scored five points each quarter except the fourth in which only two points were made. The Glenville girls were off also, but scored enough for their 50-17 win.

High scorer for Glenville was Patsy Fields with 17 points and only one foul against her. Roberta

Downs scored 10 and had three fouls. Ten points were also scored by Carol Knapp who had three fouls.

For A-B Grace Skypper scored nine points and had no fouls. Judy Matheny made two points and fouled out of the game in the fourth quarter. Jerri Reise, who played only in the second half, fouled out with one foul in the third and four in the fourth quarter. Reise did not score.

With only 19 seconds remaining in the game, A-B called time. When the game was resumed, Glenville had the ball out under the basket. Garnet Duffy, who was playing forward for the first time in a regular game, was set up to make a lay-up shot. The ball was thrown in bounds, passed to Roberta Downs, who threw it to Duffy. The ball was high and Duffy completely missed it. A-B took possession of the ball and attempted unsuccessfully to score before the buzzer sounding the end of the game.



Carol Knapp shoots from ten feet in a game between the GSC women and Alderson-Broadbuddus. (MER-photo by Hall)

## Ohningohow Elects New Officer Slate

Ohningohow Players elected new officers Tuesday, March 16. Bill Monk of Parkersburg will head the Players next year as president; Harold Dougherty of St. Marys, vice-president; Sandy Morroe of Weston, secretary; and Gene Nesbitt of Parkersburg, treasurer.

Members voted on new pledges and selected Delores Brown, Richard Dawson, Larry Hall, Victor Iambis, Mr. Carl Kerr, David Morris, Patsy Steel, and Ellis Wallenburg. These eight pledges will be asked to join Ohningohow and will be initiated April 5.

## GSC Loses Two Stars

By BOB MARSHALL

Coach Byrd will lose two fine basketball players from his team this year because of graduation. The boys graduating will be Bob Maxwell, the present team captain, and Clyde "Crutch" Brewer. Both of these boys have played fine ball since they have been at Glenville, and Coach Byrd will have a task filling their vacancies.

Bob Maxwell is a senior from Parkersburg. He has played four years of basketball at Glenville and has earned his letter all four years. Bob was known as "Beast" on campus earning his name from his fine basketball career.

This year Bob made the All-Tournament Team at the Weston Invitational Shrine Tournament. While in high school, he played three years of basketball, and greatly aided Parkersburg in their 1960 Triple-A State Championship win. Bob is a member of the Varsity G Club.

Clyde "Crutch" Brewer is a senior from Kermit. He has played three years of basketball and baseball, lettering in each sport all three years. He was fourth in scoring in basketball during his sophomore year, and in his junior year, he was second with a 15-points-per game average.

This year "Crutch" was shooting 48% from the floor and a fine 78% from the foul line. He was fourth in the conference in foul shooting. Clyde has been a member of the G-Club for three years and is also an active member of Teke Fraternity. His fields are physical education and art.

## The Beers Family

(Continued from page 1)

sas Arts Center, where she will major in art.

Sculpturing, a one time hobby, has become a serious part of her life. She has had offers for some of her works but refused in hopes of producing something better. She will continue to sing in the summer.

Evelyn is an attractive woman with a flashing smile. She enjoys traveling with her family, but regrets the fact that she had to leave her only child to make

her tours. She said that if she had a larger family, she would have given up her career.

Bob is a jolly man with a lively personality. He has a M.A. degree in music from Northwestern University. He has taught high school and says that someday he may return to the teaching field.

During the remainder of March, the Beers Family will appear on the "Mike Douglas Show" and "The Johnny Carson Show".

They have 12 appearances in April: New York Folk Festival, New Port Festival, and the National Folk Festival head the list. They are hoping to return to Glenville for the Folk Festival in June.

## Wrestlers In Competition

The first round of the intramural wrestling got under way Wednesday, March 17, in the corrective room. There were six matches with Danny Lantz and Bob Marshall getting things started. Marshall was the winner by a pin. Marshall Badgley and Barry John tangled in the unlimited class with John pinning Badgley. Steve Kee and Rodney Jamison met in the 177-pound class and Kee was the 12-1 winner. John Hoover pinned Frank Davis, James Potts won over Tommy Carr, and George Carton beat Bud Mathews.

These were but a few of the matches in the recent intramural wrestling tournament. This was the first year for intramural wrestling at Glenville, and the students seemed to enjoy it. The boys entering had to practice for at least three days before the matches, and many of them wished they had practiced for three months.

## Alpha Rho Tau Will Have Work Shown

Alpha Rho Tau is presently planning several trips to art shows. During the month of April, students will take their art works to Charleston for the Allied Arts Exhibits. Following this show, the group will submit their art to the 180 Show held in Huntington. The Print Show in Athens, Ohio, is next on the agenda.

Aside from their travels, the A.R.T. club is planning a student exhibition with lectures given by

## TKE Sets Ball Date

Saturday, May 8, is the date set for Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity's Annual Court Ball. The band for the dance will be the Vistas from Clarksburg.

Highlight of the ball will be its location—the ballroom of Glenville State's new Pioneer Center. TKE will have the privilege of holding the first student dance in the new ballroom.

As always, the public will be welcome, and Holy Roller Court and Teke Alumni are especially urged to attend. The Ball is semi-formal and will be held from 8 to 12 p.m. Admission for the dance is \$2.50 per couple.

## English Poetry

(Continued from page 1)

as had various affairs and intrigues with other women.

Living nightmares filled Thomas' mind; he knew that he must die young. Drinking, for Thomas, was a means of forgetting. Themes for his poetry were birth, copulation and death—the three important physical themes.

Thomas certainly was no orthodox Christian, but he constantly seemed to be striving for something.

A record of Thomas reading his own poetry was played. Thomas read "And Death Shall Have No Dominion." In this poem, rather than stating the fact, Thomas seems to be begging that death have no dominion. Professor Williams read Thomas' poem "Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good-night"—Thomas' plea to his father not to die.

Thomas Wolfe is the nearest American equivalent of Dylan Thomas. Wolfe, like Thomas, cries to be read aloud. Thomas, like Yeats, is a mystic; that is, all is not comprehensible.

In addition to reading selections of the poetry, Professor Williams also read "Rev. Eli Jenkins" from Under Milk Wood by Thomas after handing out copies of the poem.

The judges. Also coming up is an experimental film which will be abstract with strange, exotic musical sounds.

## Company Disregards

(Continued from page 2)

this opera is the entrance of the ebullient protagonist, a jack-of-all-trades of which barbering is but one. Eric Cedergren, who brought to the role the proper sparkle, possesses a warm baritone that makes one forget the difficulties of the "Largo al factotum," the one aria in all of opera that nearly everyone knows. An occasional flagging tempo can be chalked up to the inherent difficulty of singing such music in English, although it must be noted that Robert Bird's translation was a happy exception to the usual stodgy and stultified English-ed librettos that make a valid argument against the singing of opera in the native tongue.

On browsing through pictures of the reigning operatic heroines of past generations, we are struck by the singular myopia that must have afflicted our grandfathers. Today it is no longer required of a soprano that she be dumpy, yet she must have vocal ability and musical intelligence. Mary Lois Taylor is an excellent example of this new breed of prima donna. Her Rosina was most delicious in every way; her singing of "Nna voce poco fa" was properly wistful and moving, while her coloratura soared and rippled in other arias.

Yet here, as with the other members of the cast, great care was taken to strike a balance between sight and sound, between musical virtuosity (not really too strong a word) and dramatic display.

Incidentally, another old canard was disproved, that which states that singers cannot be actors. One would have wished that bits of comic business had not so often obscured the singing of an-

other character, although one would hate to miss any of the inspired nonsense already written into the roles of Bartolo and Basilio. It is a pity that over-use of gesture robbed the latter's "slander" aria (La calunnia...) of some of its proper oily malevolence and sinister glee.

Such minor flaws are more easily forgotten when one realizes the spirit and purpose of the National Opera Company, which is to popularize opera and to give experience to young singers. It is indeed extraordinary to achieve these ends without sacrificing musical and artistic values, but these young people have succeeded in doing so. Even the low-budget, shabby scenery can be forgiven, although it did prove distracting at first.

Elwood Smith's efficient piano made one hardly miss the orchestra (his omission of the overture was a wise choice) and his careful training of the singers was especially evident in the ensemble which closed Act I. Perry Price as the Count and Earl Rice as the bumbling old guardian had roles which are not nearly as gratifying; Almviva always seems a bit of a fool (as Beaumarchais intended) and Bartolo is too busy bumbling to do much singing. However, they realized these difficult roles in more than credible fashion.

Kay Creed very nearly stole the show with the maid's aria "Il vecchio cerca moglie," a whimsical study-in-depth of marital problems.

Whether one prefers opera in English, whether one prefers Verdi to Rossini or to Puccini or Richard Rodgers, whether one doesn't like opera or even doesn't even like music very much, this performance was a huge delight.

# Plans for Library Show 30,000 Sq. Ft. of Space

Floor plans for the new Robert F. Kidd Memorial Library, which is scheduled for completion in May of 1966, have been drawn up. According to the proposed plans, the new library will contain approximately 30,000 square feet of floor space. This is almost five times the amount of space available in the present building.

Seating will be provided for 300 students in open reading and study areas, student carrels, seminar and study rooms, and classrooms.

Carpeting is planned for most of the student areas. It will serve three purposes in providing quietness, attractiveness, and lower maintenance costs. Various types of furniture, equipment, and facilities will be provided to meet the variety of individual needs and tastes.

All books and materials will be open to students; current periodicals and newspapers, and recently published volumes will be displayed conveniently and attractively. In designing the layout of the areas, every thought has been given to permit students easy access to materials and to provide them with accommodations conducive to study and reflection.

"Every aspect of the planning," commented Mr. Dale E. Shaffer, librarian, "has been centered around one purpose: encouragement of the pursuit of knowledge."

ment will accommodate 15 students at one time. A language laboratory suitable for teaching most subjects, will contain 30 individual booths, each of which will have listening and response equipment. A control unit with several tape decks will make it possible for the teacher to monitor each student, communicate with students individually or collectively, and to direct special material to any or all stations. In the case of languages, a student will be able to listen, record a response, and hear his own voice through earphones when he recites.

Upon entering the library, a patron will first see the circulation desk, the main card catalog, and the staircase. To his left will be the paperback collection, along with displays of art produced by GSC students and faculty members. Separate areas for reference materials and current periodicals will allow for expansion of these resources.

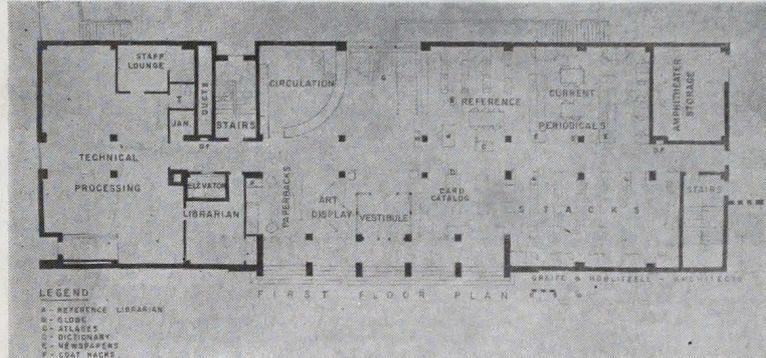
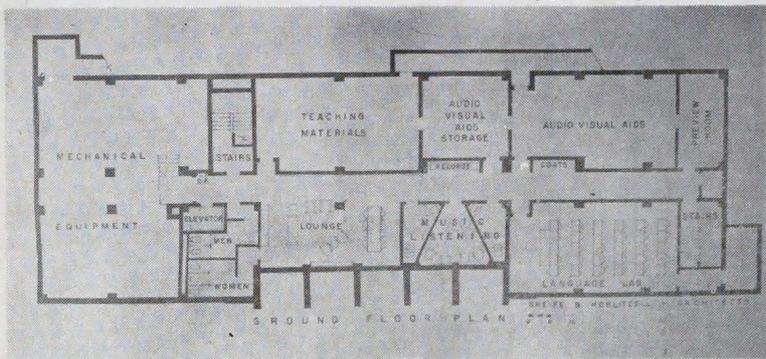
Second floor will house a large portion of the library's book collection. With additional shelving, the building will hold 125,000 volumes, compared to the 50,000 volumes in the present structure.

Periodicals, bound and on microfilm will be located on the third floor. Space for 24,000 pamphlets and an expanded juvenile collection will be available. Rare books, W. Va. materials, and historical publications of the college will be kept in a separate area of this floor.

## Drama Festival

(Continued from page 1)

tional American folk songs singing "In the Pines", "The Water Is Wide" and playing "The Wreck of the Ol' 97" on his autoharp. The Little Kanawha Regional High School Drama Festival Committee wishes to express their thanks to the participating schools and hope that they will return next year for the Festival.



The architect's floor plans for the ground floor and the first floor of the new library, to be completed by fall 1966.

# Touring Actors Have Unusual Experiences

By BARBARA DAVIS

Traveling 5,000 miles per month and staging two or three dramatic performances per day compose the life of members of The Bishop's Company, who gave a presentation of George Bernard Shaw's "Saint Joan" in the GSC auditorium, March 8. The group includes Sharon Button, Gene Gould, Frank McDonald, and David Miles.

"It's exciting, and you don't get tired of doing it," remarked Miss Button, who portrayed Joan. "Occasionally it is hard, but never so hard you can't go on if you are an actor."

In 13 years of tours in all 50 states and in Canada, some unusual experiences would be expected. For instance, the bus in which the company travels was almost burned in Alabama because the company was mistaken for freedom riders. Another time, after being searched thoroughly, the cast performed "Saint Joan" in a prison. The inmates listened attentively, and when Joan said her line, "If you leave the door of the cage open, the bird will fly out," they rose as a body and shouted, "You tell 'em, baby!!"

"Once we had chicken 21 days in a row," Mr. Miles remembers. "When you've had it 20 times and find that you are going to have chicken once more, and you say, 'That's lovely!' then you are a real actor." Chicken sounded delicious, though, when they were given fried seal liver for breakfast in Alaska.

Stages for The Bishop's Company are widely varied. They have acted in church chancels so small they could hardly turn around, on a pool table, in prisons, at a Tupperware party, and in a water-filled church that was flooded by a sudden rainstorm.

To be included in a touring unit of the Company, the four actors had to audition in Burbank, Calif., where the home office is located. After their selection, they were sent on short tours to acquaint them with the problems of traveling and to determine their ability to cope with these problems.

This challenge having been met, they began rehearsing the 14 dramas that are included in the national repertory. Two or three weeks were devoted to daily rehearsals. When at last they had mastered all 14 of the plays, they began a six-month tour of the nation in January.

Mr. McDonald became stage manager and director while on the road, and Mr. Miles took the job of manager. As a result of the tour, Mr. Miles has been offered a position in Miami, Fla., of directing religious television shows.

The Bishop's Company was founded in 1952 by Phyllis Beardley Bokar. Its main purpose was to bring drama into churches where it could be used as a form of worship. Progressing from that

## Alpha Sigma Alpha Installs Officers

Officers for Alpha Sigma Alpha Sorority were elected and installed on March 15. Newly installed officers are: Sandy Salvers, president; Ruth Conrad, vice-president; Sandy LeGrande, recording secretary; Donna Mills, corresponding secretary; Diana Camp, treasurer; Martha Hornor, membership director; Sally Nelson, editor; Barbara Gainer, chaplain; and Sandy Whiston, rush chairman.

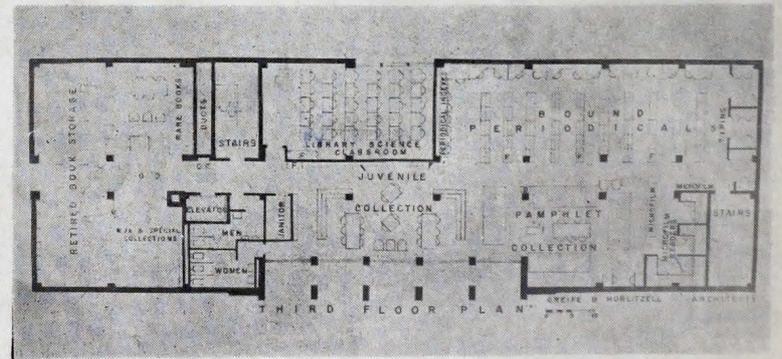
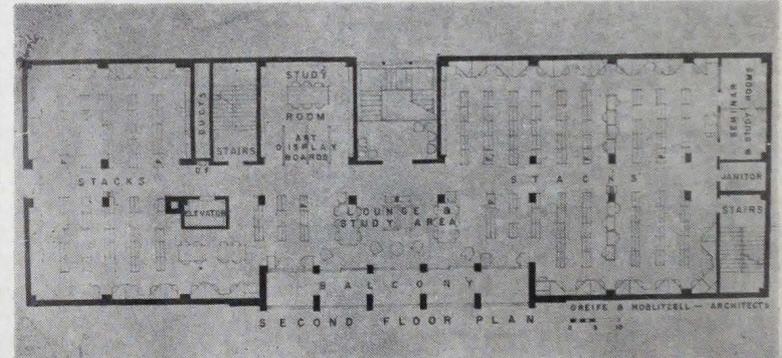
ASA sponsored a Square Dance on March 20 in Louise Bennett Lounge for all of the Greek organizations on campus.

time, the Company now includes about 30 persons.

Plans for next year call for eight touring units, one of which will perform exclusively in Europe. The list of plays will be changed, too, with the new season, and as Mr. Miles quipped, "We're retiring 'Joan' from the national repertory this year because she has been burned over 5,000 times." There is a possibility that Shakespeare's "Macbeth" may be added to the list.

The ground floor, or basement, will be devoted primarily to audio-visual aids. A room for teaching materials will house the collection of current textbooks being used in the public schools of W. Va. Separate rooms will be available to house projection equipment, tape recorders, filmstrips, slides, tapes, and records. The lounge area on this floor will be for smoking.

Three specially designed music listening rooms with new equip-



The architect's floor plans for the 2nd and 3rd floors of the new GSC library, to be built on the site of Kanawha Hall.