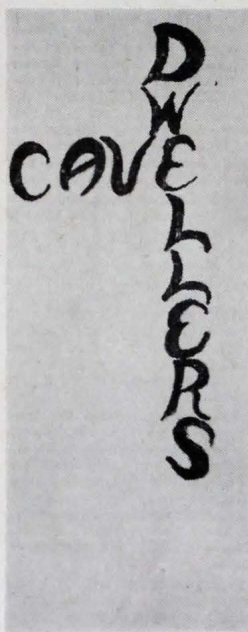


The Glenville Mercury

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Glenville State College, Glenville, W. Va.

Wednesday, November 3, 1965



Sue Black, Larry Hall, Jo Bean, and Dick Dawson portray four outcasts in Saroyan's *THE CAVE DWELLERS*, here lost in dreams of what

they once had been: a dancer, a beggar, an actress, and a boxer. —(MER-photo by Dougherty)

Curtain Rises Next Week On 2-Act 'Cave Dwellers'

BY DENNIS MYERS

The *Cave Dwellers*, a play in two acts, by William Saroyan will be presented to GSC students in the auditorium on Nov. 11, 12, and 15.

Saroyan, one of America's most colorful contemporary writers uses a loose but rhythmic style. Genuine humor and sympathetic understanding of human nature lighten the occasional sentimentality of his writing.

The son of immigrants, Saroyan received little formal education. But with the publication of his short story, "The Daring Young Man on the Flying Trapeze," he became famous. He then wrote a book and a play. The play, *The Time of Your Life*, won a Pulitzer prize in 1940, but Saroyan refused to accept it because he believed that business firms should not support the arts. His next play was *The Cave Dwellers*.

The *Cave Dwellers* is filled with "Saroyan people." As Patrick Dennis puts it, "There are few people, sad people, beautiful people, little people, lost people, brave people, and absolutely no bad people. In fact all people are, according to one of the characters, 'angels who dwell in human bodies.'"

Under the direction of Mr. J. Rodney Busch, the play will open Nov. 11 in the college auditorium. Mr. Busch, instructor in speech and dramatics, has had experience in *The Rainmaker*, *The Lesson*, *Italian Straw Hat*, and the musical *Paint Your Wagon*. He held an acting assistantship at Penn State University where he participated in several of their productions.

Working with Mr. Busch will be the backstage crew, with Tom Hodges as stage manager. Mr. Richard Schurtz, instructor in art, and Vicki Tucker will prepare the posters and programs, while Miss Virginia West,

Miss Tucker and Kitty Riley, will be in charge of publicity to local papers.

Properties are under the direction of Sally Nelson, Ed Beary and David Lough. Lighting will be done by Gary Farnsworth and Joe Badgley. Farnsworth will also serve as sound engineer for the production. Make-up will be done by Judy Musgrave, Shirley Daugherty, Ellen Whansley, and Karen Gruesser.

The play is set for Nov. 11, 12, and 15 at 8:00 p.m. Admission will be \$1.00. This money will help finance other productions as well as the Theatre Underground in the spring. *Cave Dwellers* is sponsored by Alpha Psi Omega and Ohnimgohow Players.

MENC MAKES GOOD MUSIC

Glenville State College MENC (Music Educator's National Conference) has been newly reorganized with the election of new officers. They are: president, Janet Green; vice-president, Charles Morris; secretary-treasurer, Anne Smith; and reporter, Shirley McIntyre.

The chapter, after being idle for the past two years, has a busy schedule for the coming months.

MENC took a trip on Oct. 29 to the annual Folk Festival at Wesleyan, and plans are being made for another trip on Nov. 5 to go to Alderson-Broadus for a student recital.

The organization will sponsor a fund-raising drive in the spring and tentative plans are being made for the regional band festival. Also a choral festival for the high schools in the area is in the planning stages.

Dr. Foster Will Speak

The Newman Club has engaged Dr. Ruel Elton Foster, professor of English at West Virginia University, to lecture on Monday, Nov. 8, at 7:30 p.m. in the GSC auditorium. Dr. Foster is considered to be one of the outstanding teachers of literature at the state university.

A member of Phi Beta Kappa, the American Association of University Professors, and the Modern Language Association, Dr. Foster received a Ford Foundation Fellowship for research in Southern Literature in 1952. He also received a West Virginia Foundation Fellowship for study during the summer of 1960.

A native of Springfield, Kentucky, Dr. Foster earned bachelor's and master's degrees at the University of Kentucky before he received his doctorate at Vanderbilt University in 1941.

Dr. Foster is co-author of these books: *Work in Progress* (a text book), William Faulkner: A critical appraisal, and Elizabeth Madrox Roberts, *American Novelist*. Dr. Foster has also written several scholarly papers which have appeared in various critical quarterlies.

At present he is working on two books titled: *The Southern Literary Renaissance* and *The Keepers*. His responsibilities to the academic world have not interfered with his interest in physical fitness. In addition to regular "work-outs" at the University Field House, he serves as coach of the Mountaineer Tennis Team. Dr. Foster was a star athlete at Kentucky.

Dr. Foster is married and has five children.

FTA-SEA Groups Meet Here Nov. 10

Students from 20 to 25 area high schools are expected to attend the Regional Future Teachers of America—Student Education Association Annual Conference on campus, Nov. 10. "Invest in Learning" is the theme of the Conference, which meets during American Education Week.

Tentative plans for the day's

Exam Schedule

The examination schedule will begin at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, November 4, and end at 2:45 p.m. on Friday, November 5.

Semester classes will meet at the time set for examinations in term courses regularly scheduled at the same hour. Example: French 101 is a semester course meeting at 8:00. It will meet at 8:00 on Thursday. The instructors of semester courses may give mid-semester examinations or have a regular class session.

The schedule given below will be followed. Students in courses having multiple sections must take the examinations at the time scheduled for the section in which they are enrolled.

Examinations in night classes will be held at the regular time. All examinations will be held in the room where the class has been meeting.

All classes meeting at:
8:00 will have examinations on Thursday at 8:00–10:00 a.m.
9:05 will have examinations on Friday at 8:00–10:00 a.m.
10:10 will have examinations on Thursday at 10:05 a.m.—12:05 p.m.
11:15 will have examinations on Friday at 10:05 a.m.—12:05 p.m.
12:20 will have examinations on Thursday at 2:50–4:50 p.m.
1:25 will have examinations on Thursday at 12:45–2:45 p.m.
2:30 will have examinations on Friday at 12:45–2:45 p.m.
3:35 and classes having a conflict in the above schedule (See the Dean for other arrangements)

activities include registration from 9:30 to 10:00 a.m., during which several GSC students will provide informal entertainment in the form of choral singing, folk singing, and listening music. Following the registration period, the high school students will be officially welcomed and the various groups and their sponsors will be recognized.

Next on the program will be an explanation of what SEA is and its importance on the GSC campus. A demonstration of teaching methods for kindergarten children will follow. Also during the morning session, Mr. Kenneth Legg, State Consultant for SEA and FTA, or a representative from his office, will speak on the conference theme, "Invest in Learning."

A fashion show of appropriate dress for teachers will conclude the morning's program, after which there will be a break for lunch. Immediately following lunch the visiting high school students will be given a tour of the campus.

In the afternoon session the Conference will break up into small discussion groups which will be headed by local SEA members. Lists of questions for discussions will be prepared from which the students will consider problems that they have encountered in their local FTA Chapters.

Judith Musgrave, a senior English and speech student from Parkersburg, is general chairman for the Regional Conference. Several committees have been formulated to plan and organize various phases of the meeting.

In charge of invitation are Sandra Booth and Janet Ocheltree. Ruth Conrad, Betty Kessler, Lula Reynolds, and Sandra Legrande are serving on the refreshment committee and will act as hostesses during the early morning social hour.

Jerry Stover and Larry Wil-
(Continued on page 4)



Seeming to be more interested in preserving his mountain dew than his skin, Bill Casto is quick to heave his little brown jug up to his cohort, Allan Stewart. By the looks on the two girls down below, one might well imagine that they had other aims in view. Toting firearms to insure their interests are Carol Szlachetka and Sandy Whiston. (MER-photo by Dougherty)

Sadie Hawkin's Day Set For Nov. 12-13 Week-End

BY SHEREL LAWSON

As I gaze into my deck of fortune telling cards, I see a large gathering of people laughing, dancing, and girls chasing boys over hills, chairs, trash barrels, and little kids. Girls chasing boys?

As I deal a few more revealing pieces of cardboard before me, I see that the boy chasing is legal for one day of the year—Sadie Hawkin's Day—Nov. 13. Candidate for Li'l Abner and his partner Daisy Mae will be voted on by the student body the week of Nov. 12-13.

Looking further on, I see the weekend just beginning on Friday night, Nov. 12 with people dressed in cut-off jeans, short, ragged skirts, carrying a rifle in one hand and a jug of moonshine in the other. The only price to join in all the whooping and hollering that seems to be going on is \$1.00 per couple or 75c stag.

Surely the cards are mistaken; this can't be. A shooting match at the golf course on Sat. morning, Nov. 13, at 10 a.m.?

I see the activities beginning to really get going around 1:00 p.m. on a lawn in front of a large building. The letters on the building are—VERONA MAPEL. There is a little pig who seems to be pretty "slick" running in and out among the people who are all bent over trying to grab

him. And if that isn't enough grease for them, several people are trying to climb a pole that is covered with axle grease!

The king, ten, and three of clubs are now turned up proving that there will be clubs swinging somewhere. Ah, there they are at the car smash where all tensions and anxieties can be released by taking a swing at a car.

The four, deuce, and six of spades are showing now. They mean that there will be food flying around somewhere nearby. Eggs and pies are being tossed through the air in pie and egg throwing contests.

There will be a tobacco spitting contest, a turnip eating contest, and if that doesn't make anyone ill, a cigar smoking contest.

To help settle the stomachs, a three-legged race, a tug of war, and a sack race will follow.

The ace of hearts is now facing me. That can only mean that love is just around the corner. And there they go. Boys running for there dear lives from man-hungry girls with marriage in their eyes in the "Man Chase." Some of the boys are freed, caught, and dragged off to Marryin' Sam who, for a nominal fee, says the last rites over the poor, lost souls.

When every last boy has been caught and married for a day, a Battle of the Bands will be a first on the GSC campus. The Monicos from West Virginia Tech and the Barracudas from Charleston will try to outdo each other in a Dogpatch Dance to beat all dances. There will be "no stops"; one band will play and then the other will begin as soon as that one is finished.

I foresee a week-end of chasing, catching, dancing, laughing, and sore feet.

The cards are finished with their story now, but yours can just be beginning. If you enjoy fun, try Sadie Hawkin's Day at GSC.

BSM Hosts 'Round-Up'

On Friday Oct. 15, thirteen members of the Baptist Student Movement left for the West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen for the West Virginia Fall Conference. The theme of the Conference was "Go Ye..." The book studied and which was the basis for the theme was God's Revelation and Man's Responsibility by Dr. Harvey Cox.

John Wagster spoke and led a discussion on "Christianity and the Change of Time." "The Witness We Make in Life" was the topic of the Sunday morning Bible Study led by Doug Hill. The topic of the Sunday morning Worship Service led by the group from West Virginia Tech was "The Cost of Discipleship." Representatives from eight of West Virginia's college and university campuses were present.

Those who attended the conference were: Carol Kessler, Betty Kessler, Roberta Chancey, Delford Chaffin, Larry Richards, Judy Woffter, Lyndal Jones, Elaine Barker, Nila Rollins, Blair Ellison, Diana Fankhauser, Elaine Banker, Nila Rollins, Jeanie Gainer, and Wandaleme Jones.

Friday evening, Oct. 29, the BSM sponsored a hayride and a wiener roast. The group met at the church and left from there.

On Saturday, Oct. 30, the group again assembled at the Baptist Church and from there went to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Claude Woffter. At the Woffter's the group made fresh apple cider for Sunday, Oct. 31. On Sunday a Social Hour was held in the Baptist Church with everyone enjoying the cider, doughnuts, games and the devotional period.

BSM has invited BSM groups from eleven other colleges and university campuses to attend a College Campus Round-Up on Nov. 6-7. The purpose of the Round-Up is to establish better relations between organizations, to become better acquainted with fellow organization members, and to exchange ideas regarding the influence of the organization on the different campuses.

Theme for the week-end is "No Man is an Island." Rev. Elmer Dierks, state director of the Baptist Youth Work, will bring the main address on Saturday evening. Other scheduled highlights of the week-end include: discussion groups, Hootennanny, campfire, and consecration service.

The group will attend Sunday services at the Glenville Baptist Church. During the service the church choir will present a special arrangement of the theme song, "No Man is an Island." Following the service a luncheon will be held at the church with the closing remarks made by the state BSM president, Ed Williams from West Virginia Tech.

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP

Statement required by the act of Aug. 24, 1912, amended by the Act of Oct. 23, 1962; Section 4369, Title 39, United States Code showing ownership of the Glenville Mercury, a newspaper published bi-monthly at Glenville State College, Glenville, W. Va., as of Nov. 3, 1965.

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Thomas A. Larson, Adviser
Judith Musgrave, Editor

Sonnet No. 1

By James B. Shahan

O, hourglass! as I look upon thee
With your grains of sand sliding down,
I wonder if your particles are of me
Or gains from a monarch's crown?
Is your source the pounding surf
Or is it the city's street?
Maybe you are grains from the plowman's turf
Or from the winetrodder's feet?
It makes no difference where you're from
For you're silently slipping away
And through the chasm you come,
Jumbling, jostling, jolted you lay
Awaiting the hand since time began
To turn you aright again.

Alpha Sigs Have 'Figure' Is 'Bobbing' Party Applauded

Gamma Kappa Chapter of Alpha Sigma Alpha held a rededication ceremony in Louis Bennett Lounge on Monday, Oct. 11, following the regular weekly meeting. The purpose of this ceremony was to draw all the Alpha Sigs closer together and renew their vows to the sorority.

On Wednesday night, Oct. 20, Gamma Kappa Chapter held a special meeting in the Administration Building where Larry Parsons gave a talk on parliamentary procedure. All Alpha Sigs felt this was very beneficial to all who attended.

On the following night, Oct. 21, Alpha Sigma Alpha held the first of their rush clinics for the coming rush season. At this meeting, the girls discussed and planned for the informal and formal rush parties coming up in November.

Due to the fact that Judy Cottrill, present parliamentarian, will be doing her student teaching second term, it was necessary to appoint a replacement. Cheryl McNeil was chosen as the new parliamentarian.

Halloween brought about a party for all ASA girls and their dates on Friday night, Oct. 29 in Louis Bennett Lounge. The traditional apple-bobbing and games were the center of activity for the party.

Alpha Sigma Alpha is looking forward to their Founders' Day celebration on Sunday, Nov. 14. The day will begin with the sorority attending church together. After church, the girls will eat lunch together. The day will be concluded with the Founders' Day Ceremony at 7:00 p.m. in Louis Bennett Lounge.

ASA continues to look with great expectations toward the coming rush season.

The Glenville State College swimming pool, located in the Health and Physical Education Building, is open on several occasions to students, faculty members, and their families. The pool is open Wednesday night from 7:30 to 8:30, on Friday night from 7:30

Fifty-one paintings by Roger Smith, a senior art student, have been on exhibit in the new Student Center for several weeks. The pictures include oils, water colors, mixed media, drawings, and prints of lithographs, wood cuts, etchings and engravings.

Smith, who is from Burnsville, became actively interested in art during his sophomore year in college. After his graduation in January, 1966 he hopes to either teach in high school for the remaining part of the year or to go into graduate work immediately. His hopes for the future include a masters degree and a position as director or lecturer in art history at a museum.

Several of Smith's paintings have won prizes in competition. His oil "Figure" won first place in the Second Annual Paintings and Graphics Exhibition in Charleston, and "Labor" received honorable mention in the mixed media category of the 180 Show in Huntington last year.

"Landscape No. 1", a drawing, was given first place in the State-wide Collegiate Exhibit in Morgantown earlier this year, and two of his oil paintings were "best in show" in the Alpha Rho Tau Spring Exhibit here. Last year, "Still Life No. 1" took that award, and "U.S.A.—Our Great Society" received the honor this year.

Of even more significance than these awards, perhaps, is his inclusion in a book of Allied Artists Publications. To be included in this book is quite an honor, for winners of exhibits from all across the country were eligible to enter a print of their winning paintings. From these, the best were chosen, and they will be in the book, along with a picture and a brief biographical sketch of the artist, a comment by the judge of the exhibit, and one by a critic. The publication is not yet off the press, but will be available soon.

to 8:30 (25c admission), and Saturday from 2:30 to 4:00.

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COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATIONS

To date Comprehensive Examinations have been scheduled as follows:

Art — November 29, 30
Biology — December 7
Business — November 15, 16, 17
Chemistry — December 1, 2
Elementary Ed. — Nov. 15, 16
English — December 1, 2
Home Ec. — Nov. 9, 10, 11
Mathematics — November 18, 19
Physics — December 7, 8
Social Studies — Nov. 18, 19, 20
Speech — November 22, 23

Wave Defeated 3 Times Despite Good Showing

BY BOB MARSHALL

On Saturday, Oct. 9, the Glenville State Pioneers traveled to Dunbar's Lions Field to meet the West Virginia State Yellow Jackets. The first quarter of play saw the Pioneer offense having trouble getting started as two offensive drives were halted by the Yellow Jacket defense.

A third offensive drive midway in the first quarter carried the "Big Blue" to the opponent's 27 yard line. Here the Wave ran too short on downs to go for the six pointer, and Ralph Summers came in to attempt the field goal. The kick proved to be a beautiful 27 yard showing and put Glenville on the score board first with three points.

State then took over the ball but found the Pioneer defense a little too solid and had to cough up the pigskin. The Wave then began their drive on their own six yard line but a costly fumble set up State's first score of the game. Minutes later, Yellow Jacket Joe Dawson plunged over for the first tally.

Pioneer defense broke up the extra point and the score stood 6-3. The second quarter of play saw the ball change hands several times with neither team able to muster a real scoring threat. When the teams left the field for half time State was still in the lead. The third quarter of play was much the same type of ball playing as seen in the second quarter.

In the fourth quarter the Pioneer offense, led by Jim Scherr, began to take form. The faithful Glenville fans were brought to their feet as Scherr broke into the open 19 yards and a possible touchdown, but the hopes faded when Teddy Daniels dragged Scherr in short of the goal line.

The Yellow Jackets then started their final drive which concluded by a 27 yard touchdown scamper by halfback Guy Skeens. The extra point failed, and State found themselves leading by a 12-3 margin. Minutes later the final gun sounded and the Yellow Jackets had won their first game of the season.

WESLEYAN BEATS GSC

One week later, Saturday, Oct. 1, the Pioneers traveled to Buck-

hannon to meet the West Virginia Wesleyan Bobcats for their homecoming game. Coach Bill Pugh had his team extremely fired up for the homecoming clash.

The first quarter of the game saw both teams unable to score, and was mostly a defensive battle. In the second quarter Wesleyan scored twice and took a 14-0 lead which they held until half time. Glenville defense did a fine job in the third quarter holding Wesleyan scoreless, and holding their offense to 35 yards.

In the fourth quarter both Wesleyan and Glenville scored seven points. Glenville's score came from a 20 yard pass play from Frank Mays to end Gary Blake who did a fine job in maneuvering through the Bobcat defense. Ralph Summers made good on the extra point, and the score stood 21-7 thus giving Wesleyan their homecoming victory.

WAVES AND TIGERS CLASH

Friday afternoon, October 22, the Pioneers met the Salem Tigers at Rohrbough Field. This was the first home game in three starts for the Lillymen and it turned out to be a real mud-slinging thriller.

The Pioneers won the toss and elected to receive the kick. Quarterback Frank Mays started his first series of plays and within three minutes of playing time, Woody Wilson was dancing over the Salem goal line. Wilson scored on a 48 yard pass play from quarterback Mays.

"Never miss" Summers stepped into the spot light to split the uprights and leave the score standing 7-0 in favor of the "Old Blue."

The Wave then kicked off to Salem, who thought retaliation was the word for the day. Tiger half back Jerry Pack received the kick and raced 90 yards for the first Salem tally. Pack also made good on the P.A.T. and the score stood 7-7.

Since the field proved to be muddy for a ground attack, both teams took to the air in the second quarter of play. In the midst of the air attack, Tiger quarterback Nick Cline found Larry Basitone who made the 40 yard pass play good for another touchdown. The point after the



One of the Glenville Pioneers is brought down by a Salem player during the Tiger-Wave tilt. —(MER-photo by Hall)

touchdown was blocked by John Flint on a fine defensive play. This gave Salem a 13-7 advantage.

Once again the Wave received the ball but was unable to make any headway and was forced to punt. Salem then began a 40 yard drive that was topped off by a 3-yard scoring plunge by half back John Gentzler. Once again the extra point failed and Salem had a 19-7 advantage which they held to half-time.

By the end of the first half of the game, the rain had ceased which made play somewhat better. In the third quarter neither team was able to score, but the fourth quarter saw the Pioneers break loose twice to score and take the lead.

The first score was a result of a 60 yard drive with quarterback Mays plunging in from the one yard line. Summers made good on the extra point, and the score stood 19-14 still in Salem's favor.

Minutes later the second tally came on a four yard pass play from Mays to halfback Carl Ingram. The extra point proved

wide, and Glenville took the lead by a slim 20-19 margin.

During the fourth quarter a burst of scoring had now opened the door for a possible Pioneer win and had set the stands into some wild cheering.

Hopes for a Glenville win were soon smashed by a 27 yard field goal by Salem's Jerry Pack. The three point goal left the score 22-20 and the clock showed 2 seconds of playing remaining.

Despite the loss of the game, the Pioneers made possibly one of their best showings of the year in their fourth-quarter efforts.

Girls Continue Their Intramural Games

Mrs. Christine Bush, instructor in physical education, says the girls intramural volleyball teams are in the process of a round-robin tournament. Of the 10 teams, two are still undefeated. At the conclusion of the round-robin, the two best teams will meet in a two-out-of-three scramble for the championship.

The girls play every Thursday from 6:30 to 7:30. Over 90 girls are involved in the intramural games. Swimming, basketball and gymnastics are among the next intramural sports to be enjoyed by the physical education students.

W.A.A. Forms Hockey Team

Women physical education students have formed a field hockey team. The girls practice, whenever possible, at Rohrbough field, but when the field is in use, Verona Maple lawn serves the purpose.

Aside from practice, the women play games in their leisure time among themselves. The team's trying to schedule a game with Marshall University women, but no definite plans were released at press time.

Four schools—Davis and Elkins, Alderson-Broaddus, Wesleyan, and Glenville—are planning a round-robin play-off at Wesleyan College. Team members from left to right are: Carla Davis, Karen Brown, Paula Strader, Pat Metz, Brenda Shedaker, Ella DuLowe, Janet Boyd, and Sandy Lynch.

Second Row: Connie Sayre, Elaine Charlotte Corley, Patty Paugh, Sandy Mick, Garnett Duffy, Caroline Gainer, and Nancy Eberhardt. Not pictured are: Berta Downs, Ursula Hamblin,

Rush Dates Announced

The Greek Council, composed of the four social Greek organizations on campus—Alpha Sigma Alpha, Delta Zeta, Tau Kappa Epsilon, and Theta Xi—wishes to announce the coming dates for rush.

Any interested girl may attend the Joint Sorority Tea held on Nov. 14 in Louis Bennett Lounge from 2 until 4 p.m. Girls must attend this tea in order to receive invitations to the informal and formal parties. Delta Zeta informal party will be held Nov. 15 in Louis Bennett Lounge from 7 to 9 p.m. The Alpha Sigma Alpha informal party will be held Nov. 16 from 7 to 9 p.m. The Alpha Sigma Alpha formal party will be held Nov. 21 in Louis Bennett Lounge from 7 until 8:30. Delta Zeta will hold their formal party Nov. 21 in Louis Bennett Lounge from 8:30 until 10:00 p.m. Attendance at these parties will be by invitation.

After the last party on Sunday, the girls will go to the auditorium and sign their bids, choosing which sorority they wish to join. The sororities will submit their lists of hopeful pledges to the Dean of Women. The Dean will match the lists and the girls will know which sorority extended to them an invitation for membership by checking with the Dean of Women Monday afternoon.

Fraternities will each hold two smokers. Tau Kappa Epsilon will have one on Nov. 8 and one on Nov. 22 in Louis Bennett Lounge lasting from 6 to 9 p.m. Theta Xi will have one on Nov. 9 in Louis Bennett Lounge from 8:30 until 10:00 p.m. Plans for the second smoker are incomplete. All interested men may attend the smokers.

Greek Council would also like to remind organizations to consult Mr. Jones on all money making activities for tax purposes and also to clearly indicate on posters the type of dress to be worn to certain activities.

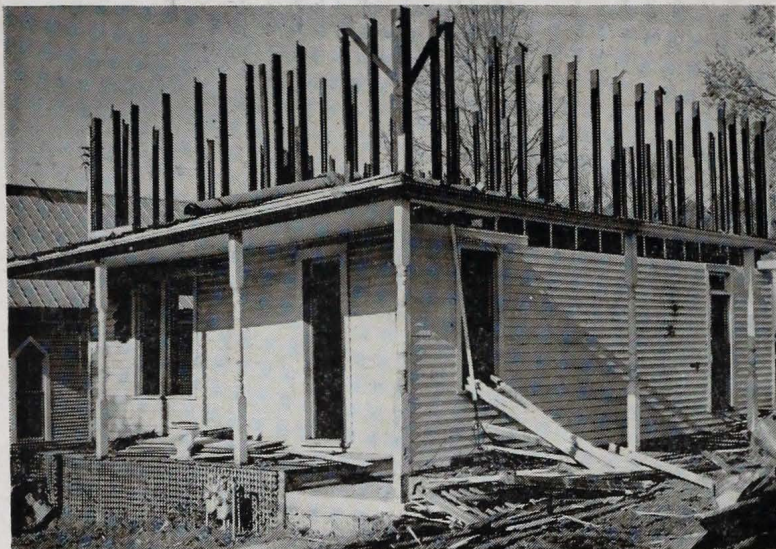
Dorothy Smith, Shirley Given, Mary Ann Snider, and Judy Bishop.

After the hockey season, the girls will begin their basketball team. Many of the girls from last years undefeated team are back and ready to go.



The 1965-66 Women's Hockey Team.

(MER-photo by Dougherty)



The old Wesley House comes down to make way for the \$90,000.00 Wesley Foundation building which is being added to the GSC campus in the near future. (MER-photo by Dougherty)

Stock Comedy Style Marks Alpha Psi

By THOMAS LARSON

Alpha Psi Omega got well off the ground with their first production of the year, *As It Were*, presented in the GSC auditorium Oct. 14. What was styled as a "satirical view of people in familiar situations" often turned out to be more good-natured than vitriolic, more vaudevillian than sophisticated.

The "familiar situations" were often more familiar to the comedy stage than to life. Indeed, up to its pie-throwing finish, *As It Were* held up the mirror not to nature—How many times have you actually been hit in the face with a custard pie?—but to comedy itself. The formula for *As It Were* seemed to be to capitalize on stock humorous situations, and the success of this formula was readily apparent in the enthusiastic audience reaction.

What makes a review like this—so heavily dependent on theatrical clichés—successful is a cast that has, for the most part, been perfecting the art of the gag for over a year. Members of the *As It Were* cast are not amateurs timidly trying to get laughs out of embarrassingly corny routines. Rather they are a highly polished group that manage to bring a freshness to even the most hackneyed business.

The stock comedy situation has always been the domain of Harold Dougherty, the m. c. of *As It Were*. Whether he has been the impetus of what has resulted in the show's style or not, his influence is certainly unmistakable.

Bill Monk, who made his first appearance in the Christmas production of *The Smallest One* last year, fell into the stock comedy style with his fly-catching in *Romeo and Juliet*. What was all too apparent from that production was that the comic often succeeded where the dramatic did not.

Monk's best performance to date has been a comedy role, but of a more sophisticated style than the clowning of *Romeo and Juliet*. He played the part of the announcer in Ionesco's *The Leader*. Whether he will remain in comedy or not remains to be seen, but his potential there is great.

Gene Nesbitt showed his potential for character acting at about the same time Monk began using the stock comedy situation. In *Romeo and Juliet*, Nesbitt played

an appropriately officious and pompous Old Capulet. One wonders if he would not make a perfect Polonius. Nesbitt continued in somewhat the same style, but in modern dress, in *The Leader*. His exaggerated facial expressions are all that is necessary to create a vivid comic character, and they make him a natural for pantomime.

Dougherty, Monk, and Nesbitt were together in excellent performances of some of the *Beyond the Fringe* material, a more sophisticated—though, unfortunately, borrowed—kind of humor. The *Beyond the Fringe* scene and *The Leader* were probably the best comedy produced on campus last year, but they were only partly related to the stock comedy situation that was developing at the same time.

The stock comedy situation was not completely free to develop in the year's regular dramatic productions. If it developed at all, it was in spite of the restrictions of the various roles. Monk's antics in *Romeo and Juliet*, for instance, were not really fit for the play. By this I mean he generally upstaged everything else that was going on during those scenes, and if he had been catching flies during the balcony scene, the audience might very probably have forgotten *Romeo and Juliet*.

Dougherty got his best chances with the stock comedy situation not in the roles he played but in his capacity of campus m. c. His Hitchcock-type introduction of the Science Club's showing of *Psycho* is an example of this.

But stock comedy finally found its home in the Theatre Underground of last spring. Here, without the restrictions of roles, the comedy actors of Alpha Psi Omega had the perfect opportunity to create their own form. The problem with the Theatre Underground was that its primary virtue, the informality and lack of restriction, was often its downfall. When there are no lines for an actor to hold onto and no blocking to tell him where to move, he must supply his own lines and his own movement. Such a production, dependent upon improvisation yet demanding a rapid pace, cannot help but fall flat occasionally.

In spite of the spontaneity of much of the improvised material showed the comic genius of several members of the cast, and the Theatre

Underground provided the vehicle for the development of that form.

This year the formula seems to be even more perfected. Perhaps the best of the drolleries of *As It Were* was "Pomp and Circumstance." Dougherty was at his inane-best portraying the valedictorian of the high school commencement program. His delivery smacked of Frank Fontaine—not a wholly inappropriate style for parodying the valedictorian—but the banalities of the valedictory address were probably not far from the real thing.

Nesbitt's pantomime of his experience in the elevator of Louis Bennet Hall proves once again what he can do without saying a word. The subtle touches that make Nesbitt's comedy so human are his parodies of the little things we do when we think no one is watching, like pressing the elevator button twice when we know that the elevator will come just as fast by pressing once.

Old grads and Alpha Psi advisers, Jim White and J. Rodney Busch, also got into the act. Mr. Busch, looking very scholarly and serious, gave a dramatic reading of "The Raven" in a grand, histrionic style, while other members of the cast did everything from cutting his pant-legs off at the knees to

DELTA ZETA FOUNDER'S DAY AND WOMAN-OF-THE-YEAR

The original founders of the Delta Zeta Sorority were honored in a Founders' Day ceremony on Thursday evening, Oct. 21, in the Colonial Room by the Theta Xi Chapter of Delta Zeta sorority.

Delta Zeta Sorority was founded in 1902—63 years ago—at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio. Every year on Founders' Day each member of the DZ sorority throughout the nation wears the ribbon of colors commemorating the sorority's beginning. Also at this time, the announcement of the winner of the Delta Zeta Woman-of-the-Year is made, simultaneous-

ly, throughout the nation, to DZ's 153 college chapters and 205 chartered alumnae chapters.

This year the Delta Zeta Woman of the Year is Virginia Cotten Stoltz, a volunteer who has given a life of service to others. Mrs. Stoltz became a member of DZ's at Nebraska Wesleyan university.

On Oct. 25 at 6:30 the DZ's masqueraded in Halloween costumes and delivered their "pumpkins" to Dr. and Mrs. Wilburn, Tau Kappa Kappa Epsilon fraternity, Alpha Sigma Alpha Sorority, and Theta Xi fraternity.

throwing a pie in his face. The whole business was pulled off in the best Keystone Kops' tradition.

The humor of all the business that happened to Mr. Busch on stage is related to the Bergsonian concept of comedy as the incongruent. It is only because the man is wearing a silk hat and tails that it is funny when he trips on a banana peel. The distance between his usual dignity and his ridiculousness as his feet go out from under him creates the humor. So it is, perhaps, when Mr. Busch gets a pie thrown in his face.

The thought of a student throwing a pie in the face of an instructor pompously reading his lecture must have warmed the hearts of many students in the audience. Both Mr. Busch and Mr. White joined in the spirit of slapstick so well and without reserve that they heightened the effect of this kind of humor in the show considerably.

Mr. White played a television quiz show m. c. that is harassed by a difficult contestant but tries to keep the show running within the limits of the rather narrow expectations of his audience and the even-narrower expectations of the sponsor. Mr. White and Bill Monk did a creditable job making fun of the battle between the m. c., anxious to preserve his show's image, and the greedy contestant, anxious to do the sponsor out of as much money as possible.

If the routine has a notable flaw, it is a criticism that can be made of other acts in the show as well. That is that the quiz show, if often merely a framework for a type of vaudevillian humor that has nothing to do with the quiz show itself. Monk and Mr. White go to a great deal of trouble creating the characters of the m. c.

and the contestant. It detracts from the effectiveness of the parody when one of them says something like, "Who was that lady I saw you with last night?" In other words, there is no reason for building the situation of the quiz show when all that is needed is the comic and straight man.

It is perhaps quibbling to make a point of this, but I think it must be considered if we are to ask where Alpha Psi Omega is going with its comedy. Much of the comedy of *As It Were* was good parody, often on a fairly sophisticated level. But much of it was made up of delightful irrelevancies such as the quips of the quiz show routine and the pie-throwing during Mr. Busch's reading.

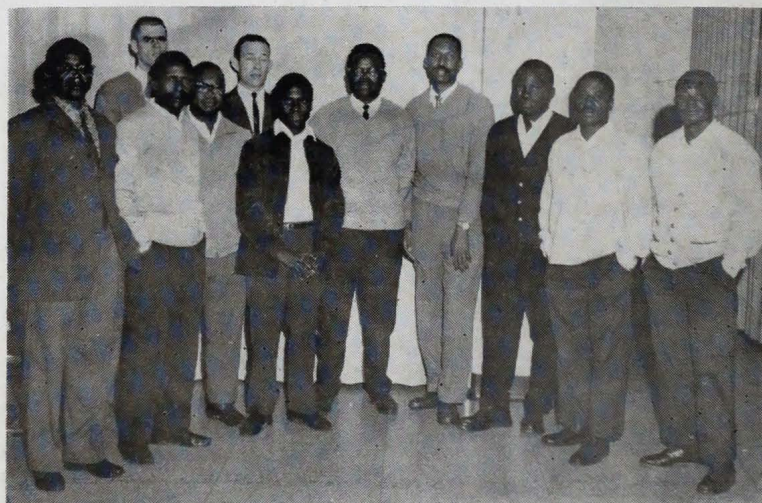
The cast of *As It Were* has the ability to do this kind of humor and do it well, but there are limitations to the form that must be recognized. What can one do that is funny after throwing a pie in someone's face but throw another pie? The humor is maintained as long as there are pies and the pies remain funny.

If Alpha Psi Omega's comedy is to grow as a dramatic form, it must almost certainly grow more sophisticated. At the level which it now occupies it has reached a peak of professionalism.

FTA-SEA GROUPS

(Continued from page 1)

liams are in charge of making Louis Bennett Lounge ready for the Conference. Taking care of the duties of the hospitality committee are William Cottrill, Sharon Foglesong, and Roberia Chaney. In charge of planning the program are Barbara Davis, Karen King, Janet Custer, and Judith Musgrave.



Pictured above are nine East African visitors on a six-month stay in the U.S. They were stationed at Kansas State University for four months and have travelled in twelve states. Of the nine Africans, all of whom are from either Tanzania, Ghana, Uganda, or Malawi, one is a school principal, one an extension worker, and seven are agricultural teachers. Also pictured with them are two guides who accompanied them from W.V.U. (MER-photo by Dougherty)