Committee ponders chaplain replacement

by ANITA DEFRANTZ

The Connecticut Intercollegiate Student Legislature (CISL) recently held its first state meeting of the 1972-73 year at St. Joseph's College in West Hartford. The mock legislature, whose purpose is to simulate the Chaplain Selection Committee includes representation for each segment of the college and community. The students appointed are: Allen Carroll '73, Daniel Folei '73, Sandra Smith '73, Susan Eilerston '74, John Steiner '74, and this reporter, who has accepted the chairmanship of the committee.

The preliminary stages of this difficult but essential task have been completed. Members of the Chaplain Selection Committee includes representation for each segment of the college and community. The students appointed are: Allen Carroll '73, Daniel Folei '73, Sandra Smith '73, Susan Eilerston '74, John Steiner '74, and this reporter, who has accepted the chairmanship of the committee.

This reservoir located between Palmer Library and Crozier-Williams on the future site of the new library is presently storing water used to maintain the pressure in the fire hydrants on campus. A new pumping station is being built on Williams Street across from Lyman-Allyn. When it is completed, hopefully within a year, the reservoir will be pumped out and construction on the new library can begin.

Gifford, sans Yale, leads sleepy CISL

by DIANE PIKE

The Connecticut Intercollegiate Student Legislature (CISL) recently held its first state meeting of the 1972-73 year at St. Joseph's College in West Hartford. The mock legislature, whose purpose is to simulate the Connecticut State Legislature, began the two hour session with a business meeting. An open discussion concerning new policies and plans for the session with a business meeting. An open discussion concerning new policies and plans for the session. This year, the newly formed Legislative Relations Committee will act as an official lobbying group between CISL and the Connecticut General Assembly. This committee will strive to make the organization and its effectiveness in Connecticut.

The next state meeting is scheduled for November 9th at the Coast Guard Academy in New London. The topic selected for debate will be the appropriateness of state funds for use in state drug rehabilitation programs.

During the annual March convention held at the state capital in Hartford, there is a final writing and selection of bills which will be sent to the Governor with CISL's collective recommendation for passage. Controversial bills may also draw public attention through the media, thus leading to additional focus on these issues by other organized political groups.

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Chairwoman Meg Gifford, a senior at Connecticut College, plans to make her year one of "streamlining within," CISL is welcoming new delegations and working towards strengthening its membership and improving its effectiveness in Connecticut. The next state meeting is scheduled for November 9th at the Coast Guard Academy in New London.

The topic selected for debate will be the appropriateness of state funds for use in state drug rehabilitation programs.

The faculty administration and staff are represented by Mr. Francis Johnson, Co-chairman of the committee, Dean Jewel Cobb, Mr. John Detmold, Dean Philip Jordan, Mr. William Meredith, Mr. Ernest Schlesinger, Mr. Eugene Tellken and Mr. Gordon Wiles. The rest of the community will join in the selection process as represented by Mr. Brantner, a Coast Guard Cadet, and Mrs. Novak, a member of the New London community.

This year, the newly formed Legislative Relations Committee will act as an official lobbying group between CISL and the Connecticut General Assembly. This committee will strive to make the organization and its effectiveness in Connecticut.

At this time, the committee feels that the development of a description would be more of a hindrance than a help. It often happens that such descriptions discourage a real person who might not be able to fit the Proutestant bed which is fashioned by the Committee. By the same token the committee hopes to retain an open mind about who will, in fact, inherit the position of Chaplain. There are, of course, certain seeds which must be met after Mr. Shepherd leaves. The religious pledge which has requested that a replacement with expertise in ethics be considered. Some feel that the Chaplain be an ordained member of a faith. The College would naturally enjoy welcoming someone who could continue to bring distinction to the College.

This reporter feels that the interest of the Connecticut College student should be by far the controlling factor in all decisions made. Primarily because there isn't much to be expected from the Chaplain and the students. Certainly, it is not too difficult to imagine someone who could fill all of these needs, as we have done quite well these last five years.

The one other major difficulty facing the committee is the problem of timing. The vacancy begins in January, the middle of the school year. This might make the acquisition of an academic year difficult, though not necessarily impossible. Of course, a greater problem is that the three months remaining is not enough time of the type of selection the Committee is asked to make.

The problem remains that there is not ample time for a candidate to deliver a sermon to the College community, for the chapel schedule for this semester is already filled. Also, arranging travel for members of the committee to hear a candidate elsewhere presents some logistic difficulties.

Certainly, if there is no suitable candidate, the committee will not settle for second best. It would be better to be without a full time chaplain for a semester. We do hope that the members of the college will help us with this task.

Suggestions will be eagerly entertained by any members of the community. Please realize that we must know what you feel before we can act accordingly.

see page four

for interview with

Reverend Shepherd
Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

May I convey my appreciation to the Connecticut College and Mission College students who witnessed the wonderful scene they made in their game last month. What an occasion it is to be reminded of a passage in Santayana where he catches the intricate and subtle nature in describing a Yale football game of 1885:

"A game is always a fine spectacle, but here upon the broad-backed earth, away from the terrors and exaltations and distant area about you, where the wind awakes, the struggle has an added beauty. It borrow from the bleak and autumnal landscape something of a pathetic earnestness and natural horror. It seems to embody a primal instinct, to be a symbol of all the pre-historic struggles of our earth-born race. Here the heroic virtues shine in miniature, and the simple glory of the chase and savage world returns as in a dream. The young men stand about absorbed and admiring companions like the crowd in Homer upon the prowess of their chiefs. It is an unforgettable sight."

May Conn College long steer clear of cement stadiums and high-time sports, but keep it small and simple. To improve on an old ballad:

And when the Great Scorer
Up above the green
Makes the final reckoning
It's not the winning or the losing
But whether you made the score.

Sincerely,
Richard Birdsell
History Dept

GAP IN COMMUNICATION

A letter of appointment, which was addressed for a faculty member in the dance department, was erroneously addressed and consequently, was received and returned by the student to whom it was sent.

The following is her witty response:

Dear Dean Jordan: I am honored at my appointment as dance instructor of the College's evening classes, but regretfully must decline. Having flunked physical education here twice, and being competent in only the cha-cha, I am afraid that I would be doing (any student) a disservice in attempting to teach modern dance.

Perhaps after I have graduated, I might consider me for a more apt position.

Sincerely,
MISS ALEXANDRA LINQUIST
Class of 1973

Social heights

By CHARLES CHAFFEE

Now that fall has officially come to Connecticut College, it is time to register some comments concerning activities of the school for the fall.

It must be remembered that to have an institution which is independent in every respect it is necessary to keep it functioning seven days a week.

It is the belief here that a new mood has pervaded the school this year. People seem happier, more willing to be friendly, and are more eager to be a part of something, a new effort to get together.

The energy level for going out and starting things up has been rising. People would rather mix their own stew than go elsewhere looking for ingredients.

An example of this has been the movement for placing a bar in old Cro. This has received an almost overwhelming response from students who are tired of the formality of our approved social gathering spot. But there is a lot of work to be done.

Dino Michael's has taken over a social chairman. While it is a rough assignment, Michael has received more than a months worth of requests for outside catering. This has received a lot of overwhelming response from students who are tired of the formality of our approved social gathering spot but this is much to be done.

Dino Michael's has taken over as social chairman. While it is a rough assignment, Michael is working to make things better and is quite solidly backed by the student body.
Student art selected by collector Cummings

BY DONALD KANE

Nathan Cummings, millionare philanthropist, shrewd business tycoon, and art collector of supreme taste, automobiles, and the Connecticut Art Department last week with his selection of fourteen silk-screen engravings and woodcut prints and a single etching.

Mr. Cummings, rarely present at the College, took time off from a Goodman's Board of Trustees meeting to visit the art center bearing his name.

Never before has it been possible to buy any Connecticut College faculty or student art work, Mr. Cummings broke his tradition and selected from students six works of Laurie Lesser, five of Susan Baldwin, two of Cote Whittimore, and one each of Amy Roberts and Alice McKay.

The seventy-six year old, Canadian-born industrialist who often introduces himself as "Mr. Sara Lee," also has controlling interest in Fuller Brush, Electro-Lux, Gant shirts, Chicken Delight, Wonder Bra, and Popscile.

I will make no promises; I merely will try my best to inform the students as to what is happening and represent their interests on the Commission.

BRUCE HOFFMAN

The absurdity of this election is reflected in the fact that because we freshmen have been here only four years, it will turn into a popularity contest with no regard to one's platform or qualifications.

For this reason, I will address my statement to the high priority of electing someone who can generate a sort of creative stimulus in dealing with an admission process that must constantly be reviewed to suit the transformations established institutions are constantly under going.

The elected person must be sensitive and attuned to these changes and for those reasons must be capable of injecting the innovative energy needed to review and reform such institutions.

Therefore, I only state my criteria for such a person without spelling out my attributes or opponent's deficiencies as none of us know each other and none of us have ever held such sort of position simultaneously at similar position at Corner so no barometer for measuring our capabilities (or lack of them) exists.

College development

ROGER PIERCE

Despite being a relative newcomer from Boston University, I am running for Development Committee as I feel I have the necessary qualities of competence, creative thought and trust. "Get a piece by voting Pierce."

print by baldwin

Cummings's name is rapidly becoming recognized in art circles as a philantrophist, and collector of fine art, owning the works of such famous artists as Picasso, Manet, Manet, Renoir, Leger, Braqe, Kandensky, Piarro, and Manza.

He is best known on campus for his generous donation toward the construction of Cummings Art Center, located at the southeast campus.

His wife, Joanne Toor Cummings, graduated from Connecticut College for Women in art major in 1956. A famous bust of Mrs. Cummings was done by the internationally recognized sculptor Gianomo Marrau.

A bust of Mr. Cummings currently graces the foyer of the Center, bearing the inscription: "Named in honor of Nathan Cummings and Joanne Toor Cummings of the class of 1956 in recognition of their major grant towards construction of this building."

The five gifted art students studying art under William McCoy of the art school, the College Art Department, himself a talented artist.

Mr. Cummings made gifts of works of art to the General Dynamics executives when he guided on a tour of the building. The businessmen were reported, like the art students, quite pleased and honored by the selections.

The poet and novelist Maxine Kumin will present the first poetry reading of the fall semester at Connecticut College on Sunday afternoon, October 15, at 4 p.m. in Given Hall.

Dr. Vivian "Kelly" Garrison will speak on "Urban Anthropology. Folk Readers in New York City": tonight at 7:30 p.m. in Hall 106.

On Tuesday, October 17, at 8 p.m. in Palmer Auditorium. 116 admission charge.

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THE PANACEA

World peace is a subject all politicians love to give speeches about, and almost everyone of them have to claim to have their own, private plan. Richard Nixon says he has one, but he keeps it secret. George McGovern has one, but Congress has carefully kept it locked up. Kennedy has one too, but he is saving it until 1976.

Would happen if someone who was neither a politician running for election nor best to disclose a full set of details were to offer a workable peace idea?

On August 1, 1972 the KANE on concept for world peace was delivered before the United Nations Association meeting in Washington, D.C.

I would like to thank the U.N.A. and the members sitting on the dais for their interest in allowing me to make a few observations.

Since the conclusion of World War II, the United States has been involved in a struggle with the Soviet Union and now with China for world dominance. The result has been a standoff of embarrassing proportions.

I would like to suggest to this Committee a plan to break the stalemate among the international powers, and establish the United States as the supreme authority.

When one looks over such a plan, it is immediately heralded as a panacea and fair. While I have not devoted enough attention to the concept for such acclaim, I'm sure most of you have agreed that the catch all adjectives you could bestow upon it are specious and transparent.

I would like to simplify this. Introduce and popularize the automobile in China and the Soviet Union. These attributes of this would be a massive attempt on the part of the respective nations to build the automobile.

The plan is to send to the United States a special envoy, Montgomery, a man from Bangladesh as well as the Grand Marshall of the United States, with some of the purchase money from the United States and the Soviet Union.

In Thursday, Oct. 12, 1972.

In this article, we will examine the concept of world peace and how it can be achieved through the use of automobiles in China and the Soviet Union.

The automobile is a symbol of progress and a way to bring the world closer together. It is important to remember that the automobile has the potential to bring about peace as well as war.

The automobile has the ability to transport people and goods quickly and efficiently, which can help to reduce tensions between countries. However, it also has the potential to be used as a weapon, such as in the case of a car bomb.

In order to achieve world peace, it is important to work towards reducing tensions between countries and to promote cooperation and understanding.

The automobile can be a tool for promoting peace if it is used in a way that brings people together and helps to build bridges between different cultures.

For example, if cars are used to transport goods and people between countries, it can help to reduce tensions and increase understanding.

In conclusion, the automobile has the potential to bring about peace in the world. It is important to work towards reducing tensions between countries and to promote cooperation and understanding.

Speaker's Bureau

Kane On ...

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The poet and novelis...
Staff and flock mourn Shepherd loss

By PAUL WEINER

Pundit: What we remember from the attempted strike last April was a great deal of indecision followed by a minor demonstration at the Coast Guard Academy, and a virtually ignored candlelight parade around the snack bar. How have we changed since the sixties?

Shepherd: When I came here in the late sixties, the whole social involvement movement was coming to a head. Four weeks after I came here, I led a group of a hundred or more Conn students to the march on the Pentagon, and the hippies surrounded the place and tried to levitate it, and tear gas filled the air. Things began to build in momentum then, towards the climax in 1970 with the strike in May. I remember the moratorium the October before, when 100,000 or more people surrounded the main square in New London.

There was a sense of something drastically wrong; there was a sense that we could have done something to stop it. That feeling really festered with the strike in May. IT ALSO TUMBLED RIGHT AFTER IT WHEN PEOPLE SAW THAT NO MATTER WHAT THEY HAD DONE SO FAR, NO MATTER THAT THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE HAD GONE INTO THE STREET, NO MATTER THAT THEY HAD CALLED THINGS TO A HALT, NO MATTER THE NUMBER OF STATEMENTS THEY SIGNED, WE COLLECTED ABOUT SEVEN THOUSAND SIGNATURES AGAINST THE WAR IN ABOUT A WEEK, IT MADE NO DIFFERENCE.

People began to pull back. They began to say it's not worth it. They didn't lose the basic perception that there was a war going on that should never have started. They didn't lose sight of the exorbitant power of the Pentagon, and of the thinking of this country, they didn't lose sight of the racism, the sickness at the heart of this country. The community lost the sense of purpose that they could do anything about it.

So we're doing small things, now like counseling, visiting the local prisons and getting into our own heads to find out who we are.

These things are good, but I do think it was a national disaster that our actions were so frenzied in light of what we were up against.

Pundit: Is the will still there?

Shepherd: I think it's sort of a frustration situation. Most of us now see no way in which we can change what's going on, at least quickly. We're getting back into doing what we can, where we can, in small ways.

Pundit: The low value in which human life is held, policy, pride, possessions seem to be more important.

Pundit: Is the frustration breeding a mistrust?

Shepherd: I hoped that right now we're in sort of a brooding spell. People are realizing that we made a lot of mistakes in the sixties. We thought we could achieve two goals, racial balance and world peace.

It's a much longer haul, and there's a much deeper question: We've got to know who we are, we've got to change inside as well as out. We've got to work on the problems in which we can live together, even in a dormitory. How can two or three family groups live together and share things, even in a small way.

We've got to become more ecologically responsible; trying to live on less, so that we get more to the people who have nothing at all. Something I think of an idea, and I've mentioned this once in chapel: the possibility of a new Monasticism, and this is really wild. If people, individuals and families would group together to explore and live at an income level which, if adopted universallly, would give everybody enough to survive. And that might be possible. Sort of a new vow of poverty.

Pundit: A bit radical?

Shepherd: Well, take Conn college parents. I've had very few hassles. When you really get down to them eye to eye, you can explain to them what you believe, and they can explain to you what they believe. You can find an awful lot in common. What often happens is that through the media, through the lack of adequate communication, we label each other, stereotype each other, and manage to get someone to hate. I've yet to find a parent or alumnus group across this country that was out and out radical.

Pundit: Why are you leaving Conn?

Shepherd: I don't really know why I'm leaving. I'm seeing sloppy. I really love this place very much. I've made some of the wisest friends in my life. I had no intention of leaving when this group of people from Ohio contacted me. I talked with them, I realized that maybe it would be a good thing for me to move at this time.

At the beginning of the semester, a student said to me, "You can't leave, Barry, you've become an institution here!" It made me realize why I really have to leave. People see me my name, and a lot of stereotypes get attached. That's a shell that I really ought to break away from, to go to someplace quite new and quite different, and give someone else a chance to do something at Conn College. I see it as a rebirth.

Pundit: So being chaplain here, I suppose, has been rewarding to you?

Shepherd: It has broadened me very much. I'm no longer content to be a traditional Christian pastor. Soon after I came here, a Jewish student came to me, and she said, "Your services are beautifully, and your prayers move me to tears, but at the end of the prayer, you say, 'In the name of Jesus Christ our Man' — You don't realize what that name does to a Jew. It's a very threatening thing.

I wondered whether in order to pray to God, do I always have to refer to the name Jesus Christ as sort of a Good Housekeeping seal of approval. Is it not possible for me to pray as a Christian, with my Jewish brothers and sisters, with Roman Catholic brothers and sisters, with atheist brothers and sisters. That they choose to take part, in a creative and an honest way without compromising what I am.

Since I came to Conn I've started to write poetry, and that has been a very exciting thing. It is a way of saying what it means to be a good Christian, or a good Jew; to be a good human being.

Don't register. Don't vote. Nixon is counting on it.

Deadline for registration is Oct. 14. Register now at the town hall on State Street in New London Mon-Fri 8:30-4:30 Sat. Oct. 14 9:00-8:00

For rides contact Edie Williams Plant 314 Box 1286 or 447-0197

Volunteers needed to elect George McGovern, contact Johnny Marks, Wright 103 or 443-5203.

Authorized and paid for by McGovern for Pres. Conn Committee, 50 Albemarle St., Hartford, Conn. 06106.

DON'T VOTE. NIXON IS COUNTING ON IT.

photo by cotton
It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen. Winston remembered having been told as a child that Big Brother was watching you. On Tuesday night, Prof. Ed-Fratty, northeast corner of the Quid Pro Quo, asked the students to fill out a questionnaire about their thoughts. He explained that the Thought Police were always lurking in the school. Winston remembered how he had to wear a uniform with the little orange letters painted on the walls in huge orange letters.

That's what happened to that long-haired kid on the Nineteenth Summer Study Committee. It was after he vaporized them that the committee replaced the whole office even with a Telescreen. Almost every day at the Two Minutes Hate his face would appear on the screen, and the students and faculty would throw notebooks and lampshades at his image.

That's what happened to the protesters of the Eurasian War. And to the proponents of Academic Change. And the entire fifteenth Summer Study Commission.

**Child care focus of address by Prof. E. F. Zigler**

By MARY ANN HENRY

What are the needs of children in society today? What are we doing to improve children's lives? Have we really tried to find solutions for the needs of our children so that they may realize their potential?

On Tuesday night, Prof. Ed-Fratty, Zigler, Head of the Child Development Center, addressed the Connecticut College Medical Society. He discussed the problems involved in fulfilling the needs of children on a national level.

Dr. Zigler was the first Director of the National Child Development. Accepting President Nixon's nomination for the newly established post in 1970, Dr. Zigler served as Chief of OCD for two years. Among the major OCD achievements during his tenure were: Improved Quality of Head Start; major social action research and demonstration programs in emergency services for families in crisis; foster care and adoption; and the first successful effort to coordinate all federally funded research on the health and development of standards for quality day care services. Dr. Zigler will continue to serve as special consultant to HESW.

Dr. Zigler began by focusing on the main problem in Child Development: "We don't appreciate how many are doing it. The concern is that too many citizens are divided about the role of government in child care. This is especially true when one considers the health of children in America is not on par with other countries. The infant mortality rate is 120 in the world, 2 million children do not get adequate medical care and 25 of the children growing up in the United States are not property supervised."

Unfortunately, facts about our failures in child care have been "front and center" in our consciousness.

According to the White House Conference, the number one need in the area of child development is improved day care. Young children need adult supervision. The socialization process cannot succeed when children are growing up without parents. Prof. Zigler analyzed this problem in reference to the solution of direct and function as self-sufficiently as possible. Furthermore, the quality of Day Care must be insured by establishing clear Day Care standards. It is important to help children develop realistic self images, especially in the areas of autonomy and social and personal goals. If such programs are to succeed the centers must include interaction within the family and between the parents and the child. Only then can the family life ultimately determine what the child will become.

Prof. Zigler emphasized that the problems involved have no magic solutions. Success demands concern and commitment. We must be willing to spend money on the lifelong proposition of raising children. We must be first aware of the problems that solutions are to be forthcoming.
New equipment awaits gymnasts

BY JON COTTON

If, in a few years or so, gymnasts from Connecticut College were competing in the Olympics, Jeff Zimmerman could look back and say, "I feel the enthusiasm caught on in '72. People want to learn gymnastics seemed to flourish about then."

As far-detchied as this idea may seem, several people said that if the interest shown in gymnastics, since school began, continues. Some seem to think this is happening as the Olympic gymnasts compete in Munich at the end of the summer sparked the interest, but whatever the reason, there has definitely been an increase in attendance at work-outs. More new people wants to learn, and are interested enough to continue coming nightly to the gym.

For a school that appears as non-sports-oriented as Conn., there is a surprising amount of gymnastics apparatus available. High-quality equipment such as uneven parallel bars, even p-bars, still rings, high bar, balance beam, and a side horse are owned by Conn. A crash mat and several floor mats are ours as well, and a new floor exercise mat should arrive in a matter of months.

Although work-outs, held nightly from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. can hardly be called crowded, there are usually anywhere from 20 to 30 people involved, and small groups of five or six can sometimes stop to watch. I think that people are slowly learning that Conn., is reasonably well-equipped for anybody who wants to learn gymnastics, and even for more advanced practice.

A brief size-up of this year's teams, as opposed to last year's, would reveal a number of reassuring differences, both in the gain of talented individuals, and a more consistent determination shown by people who will be ready to compete, come February, when the first meets are scheduled.

The women's team is scheduled for more competition this year than the men's team. Jeff Zimmerman would like to see the women meet with Springfield, Central Connecticut (UConn), Mitchell, and possibly Yale. The men hope to meet with the C.G.A., UConn, Central Conn., and, also, if possible, Yale. Some meets are more tentative than others, and all will be announced. Things will get started on Jan. 8, with an exhibition at Conn., and Conn. gymnasts will get together with the Coast Guard.

January of 1971 marked the first purchase of any gymnastic equipment at Conn. Since then, the number of interested athletes, male and female, has grown steadily with each season. Mr. Zimmerman extends his invitation to anybody who would like to learn gymnastics to just come to work-outs. A reputable gymnast himself, Jeff and other members of the team will always be willing to set people started.

Soccer schedule fall 1972

University of Rhode Island
Oct. 17 (Tues.) Home 3:30
Women's singles - Wilkinson defeated Monebach 7-6, 6-0 (Coast Guard)
Women's doubles - Sheryl Yeary (Conn) defeated Susan Rex (Mitchell) 6-1, 6-1
Mixed doubles - Sheryl Yeary - Jim Williston (Conn) defeated Walter Brady - Linda Simkalis (Conn) 6-1, 6-2.

October 23, 29 New England Field Hockey Tournament at Yale University

October 18
University of Connecticut
Thomp Valley Tech.
Oct. 19 (Thurs.) Away 3:30
Norwalk Tech.
Oct. 27 (Fri.) Home 3:30
Eastern Conn. State College (J.V.) Oct. 30 (Mon.) Away 3:00
Manhatanville College, N.Y.
Nov. 1 (Wed.) Home 2:00
Tournament
Nov. 4-5 (Sat. & Sun.) Manhatanville College

Local net tangle

Here are the results of the finals:
Men's singles - Wilkinson defeated Monebach 7-6, 6-0 (Coast Guard)
Women's singles - Sheryl Yeary (Conn) defeated Susan Rex (Mitchell) 6-1, 6-1
Men's doubles - Krisanvorl - Russell defeated Gehrig-DeFilippis 6-4, 6-4 (Coast Guard)
Women's doubles - Bambi Fickinger-Janet Curran (Conn) defeated Cathy Backus-Les Riecklow (Conn) 6-0, 6-0
Mixed doubles - Sheryl Yeary - Jim Williston (Conn) defeated Walter Brady - Linda Simkalis (Conn) 6-1, 6-2.

The mighty minute

If you're a night owl or an early bird, you can get our lowest one-minute rate on long distance phone calls. Just call without operator assistance any night after 11 P.M. Or, if you prefer early mornings, call before 8 A.M.

This mighty minute minimum rate applies on any call within the U.S. (except Alaska and Hawaii).
To be or not to be: there's an actor in all of us

MAXINE OLDERMAN

In a recent article by actress Betsy Von Furstenberg in the September issue of the Sunday Times, she wrote, "Actors Are Not The Only Ones Who Act," around my marginals. Was she attempting some private "in" kind of pun or was she pointing an accusing finger at the phonies of the world.

In the contrary, she expounded upon the "all the world is a stage" by explaining with great clarity that an ability to act is a necessary exponent for somebody's success, be he a manager or a lawyer, a salesman or a sanitation engineer.

The premise became more fascinating as I read on, not because it has never been discussed before, but it has never been discussed in such a way. Miss Von Furstenberg brought it down to a purely personal level and admitted that her own specialty for brutal honesty in relationships with people left her one-dimensional because it always managed to put her on the defensive.

She carried her theory further by stating that all the world is really a theatre; "some of us refuse to perform and, as a result, compose the audience. But from where I sit it looks as if there are more people on the stage than out front. In talking to people about their act and why, I found that the subject of one of the leading people on an actor or civilian. It was at this point that I realized what better place to look for this phenomenon than on the college level.

It is probably in college that most people get an unshaded thrust into the world of civilian acting. Away from parental influences, past friends and familiar environment, the number of roles and appropriate costumes that one can choose from is endless. You can play the role of the imprisoned scholar, reciting Shakespearean soliloquies under shady elm trees or that of the avant-garde prima donna, into all the latest sounds before anyone else has heard of them.

It sounds cynical and harsh but it isn't really—we're all forced to act out the part in life we've decided upon (even if the decision is not to act at all) and college is a great place for experimentation. Sometimes the most interesting people you meet in school are those who can handle many roles with ease, at one time a sophisticate, the next riding with abandon on the back of a motorcycle.

Or think of the people around you whose company you seek. If you plan your life by an audience, and that's what makes them good conversationalists and good company. It is a rare individual who is attracted to someone who does not act at all, but only sits and watches others perform.

But various performances are required daily of the college student. It is a different person who participates in high school ball sessions and then becomes the student who congenially sips sherry at a student-faculty meeting. The curtain falls and rises again as this person participates in a college mixer or a deep conversation about Kant over coffee.

Once again it is a different role, when you return home, even for a brief time. Certain slight personality changes take place, perhaps even subconsciously as the student moves from one situation to another. Those people who seem to float through social and academic circles have mastered this crucial acting techniques. Does it all sound like carefully constructed masks that one puts on at different occasions to avoid being a true individual? I don't think so. As Miss Von Furstenberg states, "It's a great escape, a change of personality without even the benefit of an Alice in Wonderland potion."

I'll have to agree with that. It is fun to wear skivvies and play frisbee at one moment and then to put on a long dress and softly discuss the meanings of Picasso's "Guernica."

Some people choose not to participate in life this way, others thrive on it.

I, for one, feel that if all the world is truly a stage and we are all players that it's a shame to live out the performances in the same role constantly and never see the stage from a different angle.

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