

**THE NITTANY CUB**

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**Keep Christ in Christmas**

How often do we realize when we write Xmas that we are actually substituting an X for Christ? This is just one of the many ways in which we are contributing our small part to the modern trend of withdrawing Christ from Christmas.

Just what do the boisterous parties of this season have to do with the Birth in the manger? Although Christmas is a time for rejoicing and happiness, many people now celebrate to the extent of forgetting the true meaning.

The meaning behind the small gift is no longer important. Instead, competition between givers as to who shall give the biggest present prevails.

Now, Santa Claus becomes a Christ personified, and little children are taught to believe in the superficial image instead of the spiritual being.

Bigger and better electric trains are replacing the manger under many Christmas trees throughout the country. Elaborate tunnels and toy villages divert the attention of the child from the Christmas star, shining unnoticed atop the tree.

If each one of us would cast a critical eye upon our modern Christmas, we would realize just how far we have strayed from the intended meaning of the holiday.

Let's try to keep Christ in Christmas this year and always!



Well, I dropped that course."



"Yes, I think you're wearing it backwards, but leave it that way—it sort of symbolizes your entire scholastic career."

**Personality Parade**

By Jo-Anne Kisiel

"Nice things come in small packages." This familiar adage best describes our own Irene Kelly. Ira or Tinkerbell, as she is better known, comes to Behrend from Monroeville, Pennsylvania. As a hazel-eyed 4'11" "pixie," she surprises her fellow classmates with her never-ceasing bundle of energy. This energy is put to good use in a variety of activities. She is secretary of the Chorus Club, a member of the "Bits of Behrend" staff and the Red Cross, and currently rehearsing for her part of Hettie in the Christmas play. Earlier in the year Ira was selected by her admirers as a candidate for homecoming queen.



Irene Kelly

When quizzed about her feeling toward Behrend, she replied that she especially liked the quiet (?) atmosphere of the dorm. Her "pet-peeves" are her grades, the Snow Goose, and hemming gym suits.

She enjoys collecting animals, real and stuffed; mature boys, ribbing her roommates, and pizza. Ira can usually be seen doing

the following: writing letters in the dorm, getting long distance phone calls during classes, screaming madly at basketball games, or doing a ballet in gym class.

Her main ambitions in life are to become an elementary teacher and to have long hair.

**Letter to the Editor**

**MR. BURNS SPEAKS**

Several weeks ago the Nittany Cub received a letter from Mr. Allen Burns, history instructor. It seems that last semester he received a letter from a student attending Behrend which condemned essay examinations. This inspired Mr. Burns to write a reply stating his opinions on the question of essay versus multiple-choice exams.

The thought then occurred to him that other students might also have opinions on this subject and others pertaining to methods of grading and lecturing. He suggested that the Cub run his letter, and then print the student responses that it elicited. The Cub editors agreed that the idea warranted experimentation. Because of the limited space available, only portions of Mr. Burns' reply are stated below.

In the first half of his letter he mentioned reasons for the unpopularity of essay exams, primarily that the students tend to feel that the instructor is subjective rather than objective in scoring them, and the standards of the individual instructors vary. He then listed five reasons why he favors them.

1. They allow the teacher to reward students who have useful knowledge as opposed to those who have no more than vague

recognition knowledge.

2. They allow the teacher to reward the student who reads widely and uses relevant knowledge from his entire experience as opposed to those who read nothing but the text.

3. They allow the teacher to test the student's knowledge of a large and complex body of thought and reward him if he has the larger picture correct even though a few unimportant details are wrong.

4. They allow the teacher to reward the student who can marshal facts and present them effectively.

5. Finally, they give all students practice in handling facts and ideas, a skill that will probably be more useful to them in later life than any single fact or idea contained in the exams themselves. He summed up his letter by saying, "In short, I believe that essay exams are 'fairer' to students in every way. The only reason, indeed, that I ever use multiple-choice exams is because I lack the time and energy to grade essays. Every time I use them, however, I have a 'sneaky feeling' that I'm really cheating students out of something they're paying for, and I wish I could abandon 'multiple guess' questions immediately and for all time."

The Cub welcomes replies and  
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