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EDITORIALS

Cinderella in a Garbage Dump

Though this be a rare occasion, the NITTANY CUB would like to raise it's voice loudly in praise of the student body.

It has come to the attention of several faculty members and administrators, not to mention some of the sophomores who were here last year, that the mode of student dress on this campus has improved considerably from the attire fashionably worn last year.

Dean Benjamin A. Lane has expressed cries of suppressed pleasure several times in the presence of visitors to this campus who have voiced their approval of the way Behrendites clothe themselves. Not only does the taste in clothes shown by the student body give Dean Lane pleasure, and perhaps attract the opposite sex, it also gives the campus visitors the impression that Behrend is peopled with adults. All well and good, this is how it should be. But then . . .

The hapless visitor gazes upon the college co-ed so amply endowed by nature, and so artfully clothed by good taste, sitting among the empty ant-laden coke cups and old cores. The setting is none too dignified. As the cupid-struck lothario finds the eyes of his love returning his gaze of passion, and as he makes his way toward her, in a world all his own, he is quickly brought back to earth as she screams, "Watch out for that sack of trash!" The path of love is not strewn with rose petals . . . not in Erie Hall at any rate.

So now that we've made ourselves presentable, it wouldn't be a bad idea to have a go at the campus. Then it will happen someday that two students will see a strange visitor in Erie Hall, and be agog to notice their long-suffering Dean quietly and sweetly clicking his heels together because he knows he's not going to trip on any trash!

Off the Top of My Head Wilcox Way Out

The Erie Philharmonic, as an outstanding feature of its Fiftieth Anniversary, recently presented the first performance of professor A. Gordon Wilcox's *Ricercar and Fugue*, a work of considerable merit which demanded the listener's strict attention.

As an art form the *ricercare*, during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, played a dual role. The name was applied to numerous compositions written as fantasias and also to a very highly developed fugal form displaying a great degree of erudition as well as skill — hence the name.

Written in 1963 under a commission by the Erie Philharmonic, the Wilcox composition is especially notable for the consistently maintained level of sustained restraint — a quality much too infrequently encountered in today's artists and especially difficult to achieve while employing

modern rhythmic and tonal concepts and devices. Even in the vivace section at the beginning of the fugue the deliberateness established by the timpani and the brasses maintained the loftiness achieved in earlier passages.

There were several places during the concert in which one might have questioned the sureness of pitch in some of the choirs, but these were only momentary and hardly detracted from the orchestra's over-all grasp of the meaning of what was being played — doubtless due in no small measure to the splendid musicianship of the Philharmonic's conductor, Dr. James Sample.

Erie is fortunate in possessing such an orchestra. The Behrend Campus is fortunate in having on its faculty a man of professor Wilcox's caliber.

William A. Hover
Assistant Professor of
Romance Languages

Backstage:

With

Mike Ropelewski

Technical Director

Erie Civic Playhouse

The Erie Civic Theatre will present it's initial production of the new year during the coming month. The play, "Skin of our Teeth," was written by Thornton Wilder, a Pulitzer Prize winner (1942) and author of "The Bridge of San Luis Rey."

"Skin of our Teeth" is a farce about a family and their constant fight for survival through the Ice Ages, the Great Flood that covered the world, and through both World Wars. The father of the family is Adam and the mother is Eve although

they have assumed different names.

Opening night is Thursday, February 3, at 7 p.m. at the Gannon Playhouse. There will be other performances on Friday and Saturday evenings of that weekend, and the same three evenings of the two following weekends. Tickets, which normally sell for \$2.00 per person, will sell for \$1.50 per student, and for groups of fifty or more, will be sold at \$1.25 apiece. For additional information and/or tickets, call GL 2-4361.