



THE NITTANY CUB



Vol. XVII No. 6

Behrend Campus Erie, Pa.

November 29, 1965



HANGING of the GREENS

The Hanging of the Greens ceremony began at the Behrend Campus fourteen years ago and has been held annually ever since.

It's purpose is twofold: it officially initiates the Christmas season at the Behrend Campus and it also commemorates Ernst and Warren Behrend, husband and son of Mrs. Mary B. Behrend, who gave her estate for the foundation of the Behrend Campus.

The simple ceremony is held in the lovely and authentically styled Dutch Colonial Chapel in Wintergreen Gorge. Verses from Scriptures are read, Advent hymns and carols are sung and a yule wreath is hung on the crypt in which Ernst and Warren Behrend are interred. Traditionally, the wreath is placed on the crypt by the president of the Student Government Association who makes a brief statement concerning the considerable contribution of the Behrend family to the education of young men and women. A brief address by the Dean of Student Affairs on the concept of giving as the essence of Christmas concludes the program.

Since there is no electricity in the Chapel, the entire service is conducted by candlelight. Usually the weather is cold and there is snow on the ground, all of which helps contribute to the joyous yet solemn occasion.

After the ceremony, the students return to the Behrend Campus where they enjoy coffee and doughnuts and good fellowship; and, although spirits are high and everyone eagerly looks forward to the coming Christmas vacation, there is nevertheless, in everyon's heart, a spirit of humility and thanksgiving for the considerable blessings they have all experienced.

The Hanging of the Greens service has become not only an important tradition at the Behrend Campus but also a meaningful event in the lives of her students. This year it will be held on Thursday evening, December 2,

7:30 P.M.