

Mellott Paces Twenty-Eight Dancers In Thespian 'No Kick Coming' Chorus

There's a chord on the piano. "Let's go, kids," Bud Mellott shouts.

And another Thespian chorus rehearsal begins.

Eighteen pretty girls in shorts or slacks and ten boys go into another dance routine while Mellott, their director, hops onto the stage to demonstrate a new step or make a few changes.

Four nights a week from seven to nine, Mellott and his twenty-eight are at work on the dance numbers in "No Kick Coming."

At the beginning of the semester a call went out for girls and boys who wanted to dance. Mellott taught them a routine, and chose his chorus on the basis of present and potential dancing ability. Of course, stage appearance (looks and a good figure for the girls) makes a difference, according to Mellott. In some cases it has been necessary to sacrifice a good dancer just because she is too tall or too short.

Learning to Dance
"When we choose the chorus, about 80 per cent of them don't know how to tap dance," said Mellott. "I teach them a routine and at first they take through the steps while the experienced dancers

bear the brunt of the taps. The new members practice on their own and some of the veterans help them with the steps until by the time rehearsals are half over everyone in the chorus can tap dance. Even the fellows," he added.

If a part of the routine turns out to be too difficult for the chorus, it is changed. "That is the one time when the kids gripe," said Mellott, "when we change the routine after they have learned it."

Rehearsal Plans
There is a method to the seeming madness of rehearsal. On Monday and Tuesday nights, Mellott teaches the chorus new routines. Thursday they run through the numbers until they are sure of every step. Bea Stern or Reh Horrocks, veteran dancers themselves, take charge at these practices. Sunday night there is a combination script and dance rehearsal to give the full effect of the scene. Two pianists alternate to provide music.

Bud Mellott and good dances seem synonymous in Thespians. He started dancing for them in the

fall of 1941; he was co-director in the spring of 1942 and dance director in the fall of 1942. When Thespians were revived last spring, Mellott became president as well as continuing with his dance work. He is production manager for the coming show.

"With the exception of a small group of girls I had several years ago, this chorus is the best I've ever worked with," said Mellott. "They are quick to learn, retain well what they learn, and are most suggestive."

Dancers
The chorus is composed of Jackie Coogan, Joy Eichhorn, Virginia Gallup, Ruth Horrocks, Lois Lyman, Marilyn Mendoza, Helen Noble, Bea Stern, Larry Chamberlain, Harold Ferguson, "Fuzzy" Lomady, and Bob Schultz, who are veterans of last spring's show, and Mary Jane Eisenhuth, Barbara Engstrom, Marty Irwin, Ruth Kraftsow, Peggy Keefe, Barbara Jelen, Jane Randall, Lillian Skraban, Betty Williams, Charles Diefenderfer, Maurice Gralla, Jack Hansell, Jack Morgan, Sid Simon, and Steve Yuhas who are newcomers to the line.

While Nittany Lions Win, Our Lion Loses—5 pounds

The Lion has been sick! Our Nittany Lion has been in the infirmary for three days! It is no wonder though. He held out bravely throughout the meat shortage, cavorting madly before the crowds to help the Lion team win. Now, just as the great meat famine ends, his long-starved body succumbs to the lack of red meat.

Have courage, however, for he is now out of the hospital and hopes to be well enough to run about at the Penn State-Temple

game tomorrow afternoon. He also hopes to go along to the Navy and Pitt games.

Though a few irreverent students laugh when the Lion loses his bay window through pillow drops, they do not realize that he really loses from five to six pounds weight at each game. And the Lion took opportunity at this interview to vehemently deny that any lion-tamer stood behind the bleachers telling him what to do. It's all spontaneous, he says.

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Home Ec Alumna Receives Award

Sarah T. Masurovsky, of New York, who received a bachelor of science degree in home economics at the College last June, has been awarded a \$500 Phi Kappa Phi Fellowship for graduate study.

Announcement of the award was received by D. L. Markle, professor of electrical engineering and secretary of the Pennsylvania State College chapter of the honor society.

Miss Masurovsky, who was graduated with honors, presently is enrolled as a graduate student in Public Health Nutrition at Simmons College, Boston, Mass.

While an undergraduate at the College, Miss Masurovsky was a member of Phi Kappa Phi; Alpha Lambda Delta; Pi Lambda Theta, Omicron Nu, and Ellen H. Richards Club.

She was awarded an Evan Pugh Medal, \$25 WSGA Scholarship, Merrill-Palmer School Award; Borden's Senior Home Economics Scholarship Award; the Omicron Nu Freshman Award; and the Pillsbury Shelf of Home Economics Books award.



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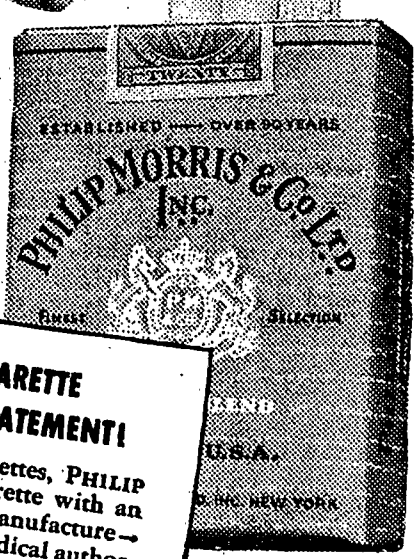
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