

# Ash Wednesday to Begin 46-Day Lenten Period

By CAROL BLAKESLEE

The 46-day Lenten period before Easter begins today with the observance of Ash Wednesday in most liturgical churches.

The date of Lent varies from year to year because it is so closely related to that of Easter, which falls this year on

March 29. Specifically, however, Lent refers to the 40 weekdays and six Sundays before Easter.

In the Roman Catholic church ashes from the burned palms of the previous year's Palm Sunday are placed in a jar on the altar and blessed. This ritual goes back to Old Testament times and ancient Jewish rites when the wearing of the sackcloth and ashes symbolized a sign of sorrow for wrongdoing.

Ash Wednesday is also observed in the Lutheran, Episcopal and Eastern Orthodox church in a similar manner.

During Lent the members of these and other liturgies practice acts of self-denial and other acts showing their devotion.

Locally, the Wesley Foundation will hold its annual Lenten Services beginning at 7 a.m. tomorrow at the Student Center. The guest speaker for the first in the series will be the Rev. Nelson H. Frank, pastor of St. Paul's Methodist Church. A post-service breakfast will be served at 7:30 a.m.

Connected to Ash Wednesday, especially in earlier times, was the observance of Shrove Tuesday, the day before Lent begins.

The celebration of Shrove Tuesday, or Mardi Gras, in many European Catholic communities marks the last of several days of festivities before the beginning of Lent. The cities of Paris, Rome, Nice and Venice have long been famous for their festivals on this day.

The French phrase Mardi Gras, which literally means "fat Tuesday," refers to the fat oxen which were paraded through the streets at festival-time.

## Men's Debate Club To Hold Tryouts

All men in good scholastic standing may try out for the debate club at 7 tonight in 214 Boucke.

Tryouts will consist of a 5-minute speech on either side of the proposition: "Resolved, that the further development of nuclear weapons shall be prohibited by international agreement."

According to Marshall Jacobson, club president, there is no set number to be chosen for the novice group. He said individual performance will determine the number.

## Indifferent to Meaning

# Artist Explains Works

By AMY ROSENTHAL

"I am not concerned with the significance of my paintings," said noted surrealist Kurt Seligmann Sunday before a reception in his honor at the Hetzel Union Building.

Seligmann was questioned about the meaning of his paintings which will be the featured art exhibit at the HUB until March 2. He said the importance of his paintings were that they be aesthetically pleasing.

"Sometimes I don't even know the significance myself, and then the art critics tell me," he said.

He said he had no preconceived notion of what he was going to paint.

"I put down my drawings at the risk of spoiling expensive canvases," he joked.

Seligmann admitted that the painting *Dance of Death* by Holbein could have influenced him to paint bony and skeleton-like forms of people. Stuart Frost, instructor of art, said that Seligmann's paintings might also be influenced by his

interest in 18th and 19th century medical drawings.

The artist said that because he believes in the art of color, form and presentation he is not a surrealist in the strict sense of the word.

"Art," he said, "is a bad word to a surrealist; surrealists do not want to produce art."

Seligmann told his audience that surrealism as he knew it in the late 1930's in France was a revolt against representation of real life and against planned pictures. He said that these surrealists painted what automatically arose in the mind.

Seligmann said the surrealists as he knew them before he went to America in 1939 believed in teasing the imagination by alienation and by arousing irritation.

He explained alienation as a seemingly senseless combination, such as the phrase of a surrealist writer, "as beautiful as the meeting of a sewing machine and an umbrella."

He said the surrealist wished

to anger the average person, so that he could be led from rational thought to a world of irrational dreamlike ideas.

Also exhibited with Seligmann's paintings are some paintings of a fellow-surrealist Max Ernst. Ernst's method of painting is to cover shingles, tin cans or string with paper and to rub a pencil over the paper to make designs.

# Visitors Try To Steal Church Sign

There's a sign on Route 322 north of town that invites people to attend the Church of Christ on Hillcrest Avenue and the Rev. F. P. Higginbotham probably wishes that more people would take notice of the sign.

On Sunday morning five students from Johns Hopkins University saw the sign and took notice. In fact, they even tried to take it with them back to Baltimore.

It all began when a resident of Woodsdale Trailer Park, across the street, saw the five climb out of a car at about 10 a.m. and lurk mysteriously around the sign. When he saw that one was equipped with a hacksaw, he became suspicious, copied down the license number and description of the car and called the police.

The police searched for the car and found it at a restaurant south of State College. The license number was the same as reported. Four of the group were seated in the car, while the fifth was coming out of the restaurant with a hacksaw under his arm.

Upon questioning the quintet, the police found that the five were members of the Johns Hopkins University chapter of Zeta Beta Tau fraternity who had been sent to State College to grab the sign. They had spent Saturday night at the local chapter house of the fraternity.

The officers then investigated the sign and found that the students had succeeded in cutting one bolt from the sign, which was still well-anchored to its post.

The four were arraigned before Justice of the Peace Guy G. Mills on charges of disorderly conduct. They were fined \$25 each plus \$11.50 costs and sent back to Baltimore empty-handed.

## DeLevie Writes Article

Dr. Dagobert deLevie, associate professor of German, is the author of the lead article in the December issue of "Monatshefte," a journal devoted to the study of German language and literature published by the University of Wisconsin.

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## Student Attempts 'Sleepy' Approach To Intellectualism

Students are responding to President Walker's policy of allowing anyone to sit in on a class in order to gain the cultural benefits of that class.

Or at least one student is. He sat in on the televised Air Science 4 class yesterday afternoon.

No one objected; that is no one objected until he fell asleep. Under new Air Force policy a student who has fallen asleep no longer receives any demerits. He must merely stand in the back of the room.

Capt. Gordon Brigham, the television instructor, temporarily off screen, ordered our knowledge-seeking student to do so. The student countered Brigham's order with an emotional one of his own, abandoned the intellectual cause and stomped from the room.

Perhaps he'll seek his culture elsewhere.

## Soph Board Will Meet

The sophomore class advisory board will meet at 8:15 p.m. tomorrow in 216 Hetzel Union.

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