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## The Observer- Dec. 1, 1960

Newspaper Staff

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# THE OBSERVER

Foreman Campus-Chicago Teachers College

December, 1960

## THE DAY APPROACHES ✓

One of the requirements for graduation from Chicago Teachers College is the passing of an examination in accordance with Senate Bill No. 195 which was approved by the Governor on June 25, 1953. It amended Section 27-3 of the School Code so that it now provides as follows:

"American patriotism and the principles of representative government as enunciated in the American Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States of America, and the Constitution of the State of Illinois, and the proper use and display of the American flag, shall be taught in all public schools and other educational institutions supported or maintained in whole or part by public funds. No student shall receive a certificate of graduation without passing a satisfactory examination upon such subjects."

Any student who has not taken or will not take Political Science 203 or Political Science 251 at this college must pass this above stated Constitution Text.

The examination will be given Friday, December 16, 1960, in Room 307, from 2:00 to 2:50 P.M. Since you must repeat the examination until you get a passing grade, it is a good idea for you to take it early (and if Necessary, often) in your academic career. Don't wait until your last semester!

-D.F.

## GRADUATION DINNER ✓

All students presently enrolled in the College, Staff Members, and Alumni of the Foreman Branch and their guests are invited to the Graduation Dinner given in honor of the graduates. The affair will be held at the Chevy Chase Country Club, Wayside Room, on Milwaukee Avenue, Wheeling, Illinois, on Saturday, January 21, 1961.

The dinner, consisting of your choice of either Sirloin of Beef or Turkey and Dressing, will be at 7:45PM. The price of this delicious dinner is only \$2.50 per person (Limit of 2 reservations per student). You'll be happy to know that the college will pick up the balance of the tab.

Reservations will go on sale on Wednesday, December 7, 1960 and the deadline will be Thursday, December 15, 1960. See Mrs. Sopjstal in Room 301. We cannot accept reservations after this date.

Join your fellow students and the alumni in what has always been a delightful evening.

-D.F.

A father took his small son to the Grand Canyon. "Son," he said, "This is one of the great wonders of the world. It is 5 miles down to where the river is!" That night, Johnny's mother watched him while he was writing and seemed to be lost for words. "What are you writing?" she asked. He said, "I'm writing a letter to Jimmie in Brooklyn; wanna see?" It read: "Today I spit 5 miles."



GOCHISOSAMA

(Thank you for the good meal)

If you have ever envied your fellow colleagues who have made trips to the Orient, you no longer have to do so. Most people are unaware that our own city of Chicago offers the culture of many nationality groups.

On Chicago's North Side at 5120 N. Broadway is an authentic Japanese restaurant, Azuma House. As one enters the doors the exotic atmosphere at once enfolds him. Waitresses softly gliding across the floor in kimonos, obi (sash) and zori (sandals) are heard conversing among themselves in Japanese as they carry drinks containing tiny umbrellas past a small, bubbling fountain.

We were led past a room encircled by a bamboo curtain. Peeking inside, we saw a reproduction of a typical Japanese heya (room) containing a tatami (straw mat) and charcoal brazier in a floor opening, and set off from the adjoining room by a shoji (sliding rice paper door).

If one has reservations, he must remove his shoes and is led to a two foot high table and seated upon a zabuton (pillow). The well known dish, Sukiyaki, is prepared on a hot plate before the guests by an obsequious waitress. We watched as she cooked the soya sauce, onion greens, mushrooms, beef strips, bamboo shoots and transparent strings of rice meal. After many futile attempts with the hashi (chopsticks), I meekly asked for a fork. After drinking my o-cha (tea), I had the pleasure of tasting some unusual side dishes - spiced turnips, fish oil soup and diced octopus!

If you desire a rare and memorable experience you need not travel to Japan; all the ancient charms of the Eastern World are yours at the Azuma House.

-D.W.

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Little Boy (calling father at office): "Hello, who is this?"

Father (recognizing son's voice): "The smartest man in the world."

Little Boy: "Pardon me, I've got the wrong number."

THE OBSERVER STAFF

Reporters-at-large...James Cahill ✓

Joseph English ✓

Doris Fowkes ✓

Bruce Mikkelsen

Diane Wagner ✓

Angela Wentworth ✓

Joanne Willanger ✓

Ronald Wuczynski ✓

Sponsor ..... Dr. June Verbillion

Dean..... Dr. Vernon Brockmann

BUILDING FAMILY TRADITION ✓

Holidays have evolved into a strange new entity since their inception. Originally holy days - only Christmas and Easter exist as days of religious commemoration. The other days have noble and humanitarian reasons for commemoration. Currently, holidays are considered a release from the grind; a day to catch up on study.

Sentiments on holidays seem incongruous to sophisticated adults - but children still have capacity to know seasonal sentiments afresh. For their enjoyment then, let us make a special occasion of each holiday.

Holidays represent cultural obligations. Our forefathers attached great significance to the original events and we can honor them by relating the stories frequently to our children. Furthermore, custom provides these days as days of family living; seldom is family togetherness broken by other activities. A little imagination in building traditions for these days can strengthen family relations with bonds of happiness and memory.

There are many techniques of building traditions; many are standardized, yet good. Trimming the tree together, going to church on Easter, Yom Kippur, dyeing Easter eggs, keeping a family log with a special section for holidays, 4th of July picnics, Labor Day at the beach, dramatizing Thanksgiving 1621, reciting the Christmas story or "The Night Before Christmas," around the table. You probably have better ideas, so why not institute your family traditions?

- J.W.



THE OPEN FORUM

An election as closely contested as the one we have just witnessed leaves our student body and the nation with a feeling about its outcome. The OPEN FORUM wishes to present some of the comments we have received about this controversial outcome.

1. I'm very pleased, but I think the Democrats should have picked up three more Senate seats.
2. I'm surprised Johnson carried his own state.
3. Aw, Nuts!
4. I think we should abolish the electoral system.
5. Dejected, disgusted and determined to vote Republican again.
6. I know that every true American will be behind the President-elect.
7. I'm very disappointed.
8. Needless to say, the best man did not win.
9. I'd like to see them send Johnson on a diplomatic tour as a representative of democracy.
10. I was very angry when I received a pamphlet put out against Kennedy because of his religion. I was happy to see that the American people did not hold this fact against him.
11. Boo!
12. I'm happy about it.
13. I'm sure the Democrats will get what they voted for.
14. Although the popular vote was very close there was never any doubt that Kennedy would win.
15. I hope nothing happens during Kennedy's administration, because I feel it will reflect on his religion.

16. Kennedy isn't bad, but Johnson Ugh!
17. I was disappointed especially with Illinois almost all democratic.
18. Prosperity due to war, eventual Socialized medicine, get your uniform ready; it's pitiful that women voted for a man because of his looks.
19. I will support Kennedy for his term; however, I feel we'll have a tough time during his administration. I feel that at the end of this time we will be more than ready to get rid of him. I feel he will inflate the dollar.
20. I think it stinks; clean out your rifles men! The idiot women voted for Kennedy because he was cute.
21. As usual, the people in a democracy chose the right one.
22. I think it is bad because he is going in without the support of the majority of the people.
23. I am happy with the outcome, but I was hoping he would get a large popular majority.
24. It was a close one, wasn't it?
25. I was very disappointed with the American women who based their voting on Kennedy's looks.

REPORTER AT LARGE ✓

In this issue I will venture to ask a somewhat penetrating question of our new students here at Foreman. "What is your impression of the Foreman Branch of C.T.C.?"  
Here are a few random comments.  
Names are excluded to protect the guilty.

"Gee, it's terribly small."  
"I'm getting sick of Room 316."  
"I'm beginning to think of 316 as my second home."  
"By the time I get my coffee to the lounge, it's either too cold to drink or there's nothing left to drink."



Now on the more serious side. On the whole the general feeling toward the faculty is good. They feel that the teachers are on the job and as one said, "The teachers really seem to thoroughly enjoy their jobs and are very enthusiastic about teaching." Most of the students are looking forward to going to the new campus.

A few suggestions were made by students. These were:

"The lounge should have some sort of coffee in it."

"The classrooms and washrooms should be heated."

Speaking for all the new students, I think I can safely say that their impression of Foreman is generally favorable.

-A.W.

#### ELECTION SUMMARY ✓

Although the results show Senator John F. Kennedy as our new President-elect, in some circles there seems to be some doubt as to the validity of the results. Several states are either now having or about to have recounts of the paper ballots. Several states have stated that their electors will not cast any ballots. In fact, Governor Stratton has recently released a statement to the effect that the Illinois electors may not cast their ballots. If this happens, coupled with the almost sure refusal of Louisiana to cast her ten ballots it will take away from Senator Kennedy enough votes to prevent his election. It seems almost beyond a doubt that there has been an election fraud perpetrated in the Chicago area. The evidence showed that in one precinct at least, Kennedy has lost twelve votes, and in another, seventy-six people\* were registered; to any rational person this would be conclusive proof that at least a minor fraud has taken place. Whether or not the recounts will show a change in the winner I would not care to guess, nor would I care to guess what action our states' electors will take. To date, Senator Kennedy is slated to be our next President; whether or not this will be

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\*seventy-six people voted where twenty-nine people

the case next January is hard to say. We will, however, give a further report.  
-R.W.

ATTENTION: Dr. Betz!

Q. Describe the Carbohydrate digestion in man.

A. Starch is broken up in the mouth by teeth and salivary, then passes throughout the faeces into the Oesophagus and is worked down by the peristalsis into the stomach. In the stomach a food hormone produces HCL from the stomach walls, then in the duodenum the HCL releases the lever pile from the gall bladder, which stimulates the pancreas, while all is a step each step breaks it down a little far. Finally in the jejunum (small intestine) the food is taken in the blood stream. What is useable, and the rest passes into the large intestine which take up the water the rest is passed on to the anus.

Troubled beatnik  
Student

Ed. Note:

This is an actual gem from a students pen in Biology 101-a So, you laugh. Students, can you do any better?

#### FOLK TALES ALA CHASE ✓

I think I can speak in behalf of everyone who heard Mr. Chase's lecture, in saying that he was thoroughly enjoyable. We also had the unexpected delight of Will Stracke's songs. The ballad he sung about the teaching profession was especially delightful.

Mr. Chase, a rather small, distinguished man, began his talk by asking the audience just what folk tales were. The audience responded and the discussion continued for a few minutes. Everyone was anxious to get to the heart of Mr. Chase's profession of storytelling. Mr. Chase held the audience spellbound when he told the story about the horse that turned into a sheep. His stories are fantastic but very enjoyable.

Mr. Chase concluded his lecture with urging us to join Mr. Stracke and himself in a song.

-A.W.



NEW RECORDINGS \* CHRISTMAS 1960 ✓

VOCAL \* SOLO ARTISTS

Keely Smith, "A Keely Christmas", Dot Record

Paul Anka, "It's Christmas Everywhere", APC Paramount

Nat King Cole, "The Magic of Christmas", Capitol

VOCAL \* GROUP SINGERS

Lennon Sisters, "Christmas with the Lennon Sisters", Dot Record  
Standards plus "Little Drummer Boy", "Christmas Island" & "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus"

Hugo and Luigi and Children's Chorus, "The Sound of Children at Christmas" RCA Victor

Special numbers: "The 12 Days of Christmas" & Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas"

Kingston Trio, "The Last Month of the Year" Capitol

This appears to be an exciting record; it is a very unusual collection of Christmas music. The Trio attempts to capture the spirit of the season with the religious motifs of lovely songs, come down through the ages.

INSTRUMENTAL \* ORCHESTRA

Guy Lombardo, "Sing the Songs of Christmas with Guy Lombardo", Capitol  
Sing the lyrics from the enclosed folio while Lombardo plays.

OLDER RECORDS OF NOTE:

"O Tannebaum", Decca

Christmas on the Rhine; various choruses and orchestras with beautiful church bells from Germany.

"Christmas in Sweden", Mexico, "Italy", Spain", Holland", England", France", Germany", & Austria" Capitol

"A Christmas Festival" Decca

Leroy Anderson uses full orchestra, brass choir, string orchestra, woodwind ensemble for variety.

"Twenty-two Best Loved Piano Concertos" Warner Bros. record  
Carols arranged, orchestra background.

"Ring the Bells on Christmas Day" Kapp  
Carols played on Glockenspiel, Swiss bells, Chinese Bells, Parsifal bells, Jingle Bells, Chimes, Vibraharp, Carillon, Celeste, & Magna-harp.

- J.W.

A MISQUOTE ✓

The Observer wishes to correct a misquote of Mr. Segedin's statement at the faculty dinner which appeared in our last edition. What Mr. Segedin did say was, "Due to a lack of understanding, Contemporary Painting is not popular. However, if interested, one can learn to enjoy Contemporary Art." The misquote printed in our last edition was, "An interesting point that Mr. Segedin made was that Contemporary Painting is not popular but belongs to the Cultural elite."

-R.W.



Hong Kong  
August 1960

To: J.R.E. ( A FRIEND WHO ASKED ABOUT  
A CERTAIN HONG KONG TAILOR)

From: Paddin Carlin\*

Re: CHEUNG HING AS A TAILOR  
or A SUIT FOR JOHN

Cheung Hing is classified as a  
tailor in one of the six Hong Kong  
HOW - WHERE - WHAT TO brochures.

What this listing means is that  
he has paid so many Hong Kong dollars  
to be listed with the other Cheung's,  
Cheong's, Hing's, and Hong's.... in  
brochures such as THE GUIDE BOOK TOUR-  
ISTS RELY ON, FREE SELF GUIDE, AROUND  
AND ABOUT ON YOUR OWN, or \_\_\_\_\_.

Before leaving for Asia, "shopping  
experts" gave me personal lists of  
"Where to and What to and How to too/  
too to." These advance lists do give  
one a feeling of security, BUT, ? "the  
guide books on which tourists rely,"  
as it says, dangling the preposition,  
on the cover, give one a feeling of  
REALLY knowing. They contain maps,  
money converter tables; answer your  
question: "What can or may I do today?";  
give a short course on how to speak in  
Cantonese, as well as WHAT TO BUY AND  
WHERE TO BUY IT.

These guides are designed to be  
one's constant companion. "Never to  
travel without your passport and your  
AROUND AND ABOUT ON YOUR OWN BOOK", is  
a rule to be remembered by every  
traveler.

In selecting a tailor, though, how  
does one choose from among such adver-  
tizing??????????

SHOP WITH CONFIDENCE THE BEST STORE  
SATISFACTION GUARANTEED EXPERTS  
A NAME TO TRUST QUALITY  
THE LEADING TAILOR DISTINCTIVE  
A NAME TO REMEMBER

Custom tailoring in the Far East  
is a necessity--not a luxury. This is  
the only way in which one can be  
clothed. Ready-to-wear is not popu-  
lar because there is no such thing.  
Robert Hall would go over well here if

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he could switch to bamboo poles in-  
stead of his well known "pipe-racks".

DO NOT BE SWAYED BY ANY OF THE ABOVE.  
IF NOT SATISFIED, YOU WILL HAVE A  
CHEUNG HING LABEL FOR A ROBERT HALL  
SUIT.

\*Paddin Carlin is the name under which  
Dr. Grogan has done free-lance writing.

#### LECTURE SERIES

The revolution and subsequent  
events in Cuba has focused much  
world attention on Caribbean America.  
Cuba, the largest of the Greater  
Antilles, has been strongly dependent  
upon the United States as a market  
for the bulk of it's exports, mostly  
sugar, rum, and molassas. The recent  
activities and actions by Cuba's  
leaders have wrought changes in the  
economic and political structure of  
Cuba which in turn has brought about  
changes in American policy toward  
Cuba.

SPEAKER: Professor George Blanksten,  
Department of Political  
Science, Northwestern U.

TOPIC: Cuba Under Fidel Castro

TIME: Thursday, December 8, 1960  
10:30 AM.

PLACE: Student Lounge

Dr. Blanksten has had extensive  
experience in the field of Latin  
America, not only in teaching, but  
also in government service. His most  
recent work took him to Mexico where  
he did a research study on a Ford  
Foundation grant covering the relation-  
ships between economic development and  
political patterns of under-developed  
areas in Latin America. His topic  
should be of great interest to all of  
us since it is currently in world  
news and also had much comment in the  
recent political campaign.



## WHAT IS DEMOCRACY?

Democracy, socialism, communism, capitalism, imperialism, —such words appear constantly in the news. This reporter thought that because these topics are discussed almost daily in newspapers, schools, social gatherings, etc., it would prove advantageous to each of us, if we are to be good citizens, and make our contributions to democracy, to familiarize ourselves with many of these terms.

### Democracy

When used in the general sense, this term means "rule by the people." It could be applied to various forms of government just as long as the power and final authority, in each case, rests with the voters.

### Pure Democracy

In a pure democracy public questions are settled by direct popular vote.

### Representative Government

When people act through elected spokesmen we have what is called representative government. This is used mostly where there are great masses of people, and does allow a great nation such as ours to have democracy.

### Parliamentary System

In this system the Chief Executive (usually known as a "prime minister" or "premier") is chosen by the legislative body who in turn are chosen and elected by the people. So actually he represents the party—or combination of parties—that controls the parliament. If the chief executive gets into a major disagreement with the lawmakers, he either resigns or calls upon the voters to choose a new legislative body. Thus, when the system works properly, there can be no serious deadlock between parliament and prime minister—between the legislative and executive branches of the government. Canada and Britain have had great success with this system of government.

### Check-and-Balance-System

This is the term often used when describing our type of government. Both the President and members of Congress are elected to serve for definite

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lengths of time. This check-and-balance pattern was deliberately created by the men who drew up our Constitution. They believed that, if the various branches of government checked one another, none could become too powerful or tyrannical. Certain deadlocks do occur when the President and Congress do not agree, but most of the American people seem to agree that this system is still the best.

### Republic

In a Republic there are two basic ingredients. The first is that the people rule through elected representatives, and the second is that there is no monarch, such as an emperor or king.

### Capitalism

Many times people are referring to capitalism and they never even realize it. In the United States, private persons or corporations own nearly all farms, factories, railways, newspapers, retail stores, and other businesses. Many people refer to this as free or private enterprise. This is Capitalism. Where the people control business we have what is called Capitalism. (Most economic activities are in private hands.)

### Communism

This term also has two dominant features. We have both extensive Government ownership, and dictatorial rule. Here we find just the opposite of Capitalism. Instead of the people owning farms, factories, and so forth, the government owns and manages them. I am sure everyone reading this article has heard of cases where the people themselves are supposed to own farms and industrial enterprises, "collectively", but in reality they are still employes of the state, and the government tells them how to run their farms.

### Socialism and Collectivism

These are broad, general names for any system of widespread government ownership. We can apply them both to communism and to the systems of state ownership that exist in certain democratic nations. As an example of this we can use Great Britain. Their economy is, to a considerable extent, socialistic. Most of their airlines,



railways and canals, to mention just a few, are government owned and operated.

But, we must remember that there is a big difference between British socialism and Soviet Communism. When public decisions are to be made in Great Britain they are made by democratic rather than dictatorial methods. The people in Great Britain have political freedom similar to ours.

In other words the British government did not take over private industries, until a majority in the Parliament, which was elected by a majority of the people, decided upon such a choice. Because of this the British Government, even though it owns a number of industries, remains politically democratic. The people there still have the power to choose their officials in a free election.

#### Nationalism

This term refers to a movement that is sweeping across vast portions of the globe. It is a drive for independence, among peoples whose lands are in one way or another controlled by foreign powers.

#### Imperialism and Colonialism

This is what the nationalists oppose. It is the policy under which a powerful nation seeks to gain control (either political and/or economic) over peoples outside its own homeland.

We can draw many conclusions after reading these various terms and their general meaning. But, I believe the most important one we can conclude is that Democracy is best.

-J.C.

#### Compagnie de Mime ✓

Apparently satisfied with the financial returns of his first American tour four years ago, Marcel Marceau has again blessed us with his genius (and genius it is!). What plagues most shows thinking of coming to Chicago is the high cost of moving scenery and cast, and the expense entailed in producing a show while

here. Last time he was here, Marceau only had to worry about his salary and that of his assistant. Displaying his confidence in Chicagoans as fanciers of the pantomime, he has returned with a cast of ten. And, before Marceau, what Chicagoan would have thought of spending the price of a theater ticket when not a word was spoken on stage all evening? (After all, that sort of thing went out with the silent movies!)

Back again is Bip, the lovable fellow who is visited by all the vicissitudes of life. Also back from his first show is the excellent sketch, "The Public Garden." The rest of his show is completely new and fresh.

In the second half of his show, Marceau demonstrates drama without words. Using the story, The Overcoat, by Nicholas Gogol, Marceau and his cast relate the story of a poor Russian clerk that works years to replace his threadbare coat with a superb coat of fur. With his new coat the clerk finds he now has social standing as his employer throws a party in his honor. His happiness is short-lived, however, for while returning home he is attacked by thieves and robbed of his coat and dream.

Marceau and his cast might have saved their efforts, for the mimodrama is not all that interesting. If it is excellent mimodrama that is wanted, turning the T.V. set to Silents, Please will satisfy that need far more satisfactorily.

The show is at its best when Marceau is not sharing the stage with his cast. And Marceau is at his best when he is portraying a cast of characters. When he is portraying one person, as in his Bip sketches, the performance tends to drag in places. His best sketches are "The Public Garden," "The Side Show," and "The Carnival." But for sheer humor, his funniest skit, of course, is "Bip Takes an Ocean Voyage."

-J.E.



Hanukkah is the Jewish Feast of Lights or Feast of Dedication. The holiday begins at sundown of the 25th day of the Hebrew month of Kislev or December 13 and lasts eight days.

The long story of this holiday begins 400 years before the birth of Christ. The story is omitted from the King James Bible, but takes place between the last book of the Old Testament and the first book of the New Testament.

The history of this period is full of momentous events which changed political, social, and religious conditions in Palestine.

After the Hebrews were released from captivity in Babylon, they returned to Israel under the waning power of Persia. Conscious of their own weakness, the Hebrews were careful to give their enemies no pretext for attack and still more careful not to offend God by neglect of his laws and ordinances.

Persia soon fell under the hand of Alexander the Great, a Greek. He was very tolerant and the Jews cheerfully accepted their new ruler. There was, however, a social and philosophic result of Greek domination, which had a momentous effect. The Jew was susceptible to Greek thought and culture, which the strict adherents of the law perceived to be antagonistic to Hebrew civilization. Then began a period of long conflict between the traditional or religious Jews and the secular, hellenized Jews, who dressed like Greeks, ate their foods, and worshipped their gods.

The Jew still had much liberty under Greece, until the death of the benevolent Alexander in 323 B.C.

Then began the great crisis and persecution in Palestine in 175 B.C. when Antiochus Epiphanes became King of Syria. He was determined to root out Jewish faith and practice. He captured Jerusalem and desecrated the sacred places. An altar to the Greek deity, Zeus, was set up in the Jewish Temple, swine were offered in sacrifice and their blood sprinkled on the holy altar in defiance of Judaism. All copies of the law were burned and Jewish priests were forced to bow to the Greek-Syrian gods.

One day an aged priest, Mattathias Maccabeus and his five sons were in the market place of Modein.

He indignantly refused to bow to Zeus, and being threatened, he slew a guard called Antiochus. This became the first signal for revolt in Jewish history. Mattathias his sons and a band of men fled to the mountains to save their lives.

From that time on, a struggle was waged unparalleled for heroism in history. Mattathias died, but his son, Judas, took command of the insurgents. He and a handful of men harassed the Syrian army. Judas became known as "Judas the Hammer" because he slaughtered the army by charging through them on his horse, wildly swinging a round iron ball with spikes. After three years the Syrian army was routed and Judas marched in triumph to Jerusalem. He entered the Temple and found it full of idols and stripped of its valuables. He wanted to cleanse the Temple but found only one small cruse of oil with which to light the holy lamps. But miraculously, the cruse burned for eight days. Judas Maccabeus, the valiant, heroic and one of most noble characters in history, then proclaimed a festival, Hanukkah, to be observed by all Jews as a commemoration of their victory and rededication of the Temple in 165 B.C.

Today Hanukkah is celebrated all over the world by Reform, Conservative and Orthodox Jews. A candelabra or "menorah" is lit for eight days. Each night an additional candle is lit and burned to the end as the family gathers around the Father who gives the blessing in Hebrew. Each candle has a symbolic meaning and the ninth, special candle at the top, called the "shammes", is lit all eight days. During these holy days, gifts are exchanged, songs are sung in Hebrew, a game with a top called "dreidel" is played and "latke" or little potato pancakes are eaten. Pious Jews do not forget their prayers to the God who delivered them and they always remember Him as they attend services in the Temple.



SHOLO



FOREMAN'S THEATER PARTY ✓  
A Midsummer Night's Dream

Lucky were the students who held tickets for Foreman's Fall theater party. Coming close on the heels of mid-term week, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Shakespeare's mirthful comedy, came as a welcome respite from those mid-term sorrows and woes ("Look, what fools these mortals be," said Puck). For those who attended, and for the curious, here are some background notes and observations.

Written in 1596, this Shakespearean play is one of the oldest and merriest in the English language, and it stands as Shakespeare's first undisputed masterpiece. It is thought that the play was written as entertainment for a wedding, and converted to a play for the stage by altering portions of the last act - hence the play has two known endings. The play is one of Shakespeare's (that pirate of plots) most original; hints of the story can be seen in the works of Chaucer, Ovid, and Plutarch - and in folk tales. Fairy stories were very much in fashion at the writing of the play, but the play, but the fairies were demons to be feared rather than spirits to be laughed at. Shakespeare took Puck and the creatures of the forest, along with Bottom, the weaver, and wove them into a delightful crew of clowns.

In his introduction to a Midsummer Night's Dream, Mark Van Doren says it is a play to sparkle away the night with moonlight and gushing fountains. The poetry of the play is dominated by the words moon and water. Theseus and Hippolyta carve the moon in our memory with their opening dialogue. Later on, Lysander connects the image of the moon with the image of cool water, and henceforth they are inseparable. Moon, water and wet flowers conspire to extend the world of A Midsummer Night's Dream until it is as large as all imaginable life creating the feeling of both naturalness and mysteriousness.

Shakespeare came, even in this early play, to the limit of comedy. The end of comedy is self-parody, and its wisdom is self-understanding. Bottom and his friends have lived their three centuries to good purpose, but to no better purpose than the one they first had: "to live in sublime innocence, idiot openness and charity of soul."

-J.E.

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WORDS OF WISDOM

The food consumed today shapes your figure tomorrow.

Mind thy business and thy business will mind thee.

The applause that pleases the weak mind is but a spur to the strong one.

An idea is like a fire--it wants both feeding and watching.

It is easier to get a pearl out of an oyster than a diamond out of an old crab.