

# The Font

FONTBONNE COLLEGE, ST. LOUIS, MO.

Vol. 1

JANUARY 26, 1927

No. 10

## "PLAY MAKING EASY" SAYS ENGLISH WRITER

**John Van Druten, Creator of  
"Young Woodley," Un-  
folds His Methods.**

"A play is the easiest art form to create," was the declaration of the successful young playwright, John Van Druten, to the prospective playwrights of Fontbonne at the student assembly Tuesday afternoon, when he spoke on "Making a Play." "Creating a play," he continued, "is really only a continuation of the game of make-believe which all of us play when we are young. It takes less time than other art forms, requiring, for instance, fewer words, by far, than a novel. I say 'making' a play for the reason that the process of creating a drama is not a matter of 'writing' one, only, but a process as deliberate as is the doing of a piece of carpentry."

As to his method in creating his own play, "Young Woodley," which is to be presented in St. Louis next week, Mr. Van Druten explained that his characters took shape in his mind before his plot, that they, in fact, compelled the plot. A dramatic artist becomes so much engrossed in his characters as to allow them to take control, he continued, so that in the last job of playwriting, the writing of the dialogue, he becomes merely the stenographer or reporter who puts down what his character dictate to him.

Speaking of the literary efforts of young persons, Mr. Van Druten told his audience that all young folk go through a period in which they may be said to suffer from "intellectual measles;" they are blase, taken with the depressing things in literature, and pose as having exhausted every

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Jeanette Hartman, Court Physician in  
"The Jumping Jack"

## Father Schwitalla to Open Series of Talks on Religion

Rev. Alphonse M. Schwitalla, S.J., Ph.D., regent of the Medical School of St. Louis University, will commence on Thursday, February 3, at 2 o'clock a series of weekly lectures on religious topics for the students of the college. This announcement has been received with much enthusiasm by the students who heard Father Schwitalla at the annual retreat last year.

### NOTICE

A college orchestra is being organized for the next semester. In response to a call sent out last week, several musicians have presented themselves for membership. Any other students who are able to play orchestral instruments are requested to notify Ruth Dougherty, 101 Fine Arts building, at noon any day this week.

## DRAMA AND MUSIC AT FEAST OF ST. AGNES

**Superior-General of Sisters  
and Her Guests Honored  
Monday Afternoon**

A quiet celebration was held Monday afternoon for the patronal feast of Reverend Mother Mary Agnes, Superior-General of the Sisters of St. Joseph in this country, advantage having been taken of a visit she and some of her guests were paying to Fontbonne. Among these guests were two venerable Sisters from St. Paul, Minn., Mother Seraphine, sister of the late Archbishop Ireland of St. Paul, and Mother Berenice, mistress of novices. Mother Seraphine was a member of the staff of St. Joseph's Academy in Carondelet from 1863 to 1868, when she left for the St. Paul province, where she has worked for the last sixty years, having served as provincial from 1882 until a few years ago.

Monday's program included a one-act play, "The Jumping Jack," by Mary Scott Lawler, a St. Louis woman, given by the

*Continued on Page 4*

## The Prom's The Thing

The strain of examinations this week is being somewhat relieved by the anticipation of next week's function, the first annual junior prom, to be held next Tuesday, February 1, in the parlors of Fine Arts building.

Energetic committees of juniors are at work on the preparations. Among the out-of-town guests is a number of students from St. Teresa's Junior College, Kansas City, Mo., which has several alumnae at Fontbonne, among them three members of the junior class, Frances and Aurelia Coffey and Lenadore Bass.

# The Font

Published Weekly at  
FONTBONNE COLLEGE  
ST. LOUIS, MO.

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## The Polite Pupil

It is high time that some antique-monger resurrect "The Polite Pupil," that little golden treasure for the youth of yesterday, and make it the "thing" for "us moderns." Of course it could be of no particular worth, in as much as it clashes with self-expression and unsuppressed desires, but as a quaint curio, we feel sure, it would prove interesting. For instance, it has passages in it that caution against interrupting when others are speaking, or if an interruption is necessary, legislates that one must beg pardon. Imagine having to wait until another is finished speaking before presenting your own lively ideas, or what is worse, having to beg his pardon for interrupting — why, half the day would be wasted in begging pardons. It also advocates courtesy to one's teachers, and respect for their authority. Poor pupil. Perhaps he even had to eat his lunch at school merely because it was decreed that no student should leave the campus between classes, and to refrain from taking reference books out of the library because to do so, the authorities said, would not be fair to the other students. Truly, the book is a storehouse of antediluvian nonsense, and as such, would furnish anyone a few hours of unique entertainment. We ask — haven't the times changed?

## Advice to the Lovelorn

Much counsel has been given to the lovelorn, but nevertheless we believe our readers will be interested in a little advice in the gentle art of "holdin' 'em." With years of experience behind us, we have the following suggestions to make. Despite all this talk about the domestic appeal—never let 'em see you washing dishes. Washing dishes is undoubtedly a most practical part of the little home, but just the same—never let 'em see you doing it. Never let 'em see you in a beauty parlor. No matter how happy the result, a woman in the throes of a shampoo, a permanent, or a facial is most unprepossessing. And above all, oh!—never let 'em see you before breakfast!

## Finances Are of Secondary Importance in Fathers' Club

*Editor's Note: This is the second of a series of articles, contributed by Mr. John E. Riley, president of the Fathers' Club.*

An organization such as the Fathers' Club can take no shorter cut toward loss of interest, and ultimate dissolution, than to permit the matter of finances to become burdensome to its members. This has been proven in any number of instances in the past.

To guard against a contingency of this nature, the founders of the Fathers' Club have taken the necessary precautions to prevent a similar fate befalling their organization.

The only financial obligation connected with membership is the payment of one dollar per month in dues, which may be paid monthly, semi-annually, annually, or at any other interval the member may designate. Under no circumstances will the Club promote financial drives or campaigns, or solicit contributions for any purpose. Payment of the monthly dues places all members on an equal financial footing, and to preserve this equality voluntary subscriptions have never been, and will never be, made public.

Members may attend meetings, entertainments and other functions sponsored by the Fathers' Club with the positive assurance that financial contributions will not be solicited in any form.

## Faxencrux

One of our worldly-wise Freshmen decided that there are only two kinds of men in the world: Those you can get and don't want, and those you want and can't get.



To the Editor of Faxencrux:

Dear Sir, Madam, or What have you:

You have the easiest job on the paper, but still your jokes are very dumb. I should think that with a little imagination you could make that column really funny.

(Signed) Dissatisfied.

Answer:

When you die you will probably complain of draughts around your place in Heaven, and insist that your harp is out of tune and your gold crown turning green. These joke columns require very little imagination; as far as I can make out, it is mostly perspiration.

(Signed) Editor of Faxencrux.

Taste makes waist.

In punctuation marks, the college years might be designated: (?) (!) (:) (.)

When you haven't a car, you know who your friends are.

One can never tell by the depth of the wave how long the marcel is going to last.

Sometimes it is easier to do work than to dodge it.

There are some people who only hit the high-lights when playing basketball.

Abie dropped a book in class the other day and woke everybody up.

Every "Soph" has her say.

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### Sophomores Hold Lead In Intramural Games

The gymnasium was again the setting of an interesting athletic spectacle, when on Tuesday, December 18, an attraction presented itself in the form of two basketball games. The first was played between freshmen A and sophomore A and resulted in a tied score, 6-6. The second game between sophomore B and freshmen B ended with a score of 18-14 in favor of the sophomores. The sophomores hold the lead on the basketball court, winning two games out of the three played this season.

### Interclass Games Weekly

Intramural basketball games will be held one each week on alternate Monday and Tuesday afternoons. The members of the teams are: Freshmen A, Marjory Chopin (captain), Edwina Daly, Mary Cecilia Robinson, Jayne Morris, Virginia Gates, Portia Murphy; freshmen B, Eleanor Baer (captain), Florence Noble, Clare Whalen, Zelline Hobbs, Lucinda White, Teresa Heffertepe, Ethel Daily, Virginia Marmaduke; sophomore A, Ruth Dougherty (captain), Corinne Dewes, Dorothy Joyce, Agnes Reilly, Alice Igoe; sophomore B, Charlotte Whalen (captain), Elvera Visconti, Mary Kiely, Marie Freudenstein, Agnes Collins; junior-senior, Jule Marie Kirk (captain), Leradore Bass, Aurelia Coffey, Francis Coffey, Genevieve McElroy, Alice Beffa, Adelyn Cavagnaro.

### Equestrians in Readiness

The horse-back riding class is at last organized, the quota having been filled this week. It is now waiting for fair weather to attempt its equestrian feats. The class will be in charge of experienced instructors.

### Red Cross Swimming Tests

The members of the class in Red Cross swimming will soon be prepared to take the test in Red Cross Life Saving which will be given by Mrs. Frederick Pothoff of the American Red Cross. Swimmers who have not yet entered the course in Red Cross Life Saving but desire to do so, will, by extra practice on Tuesday or Wednesday, be permitted to take the test with the regular class.

### Relic of "Little Flower" Is Given to Fontbonne

A first-class relic of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus, "The Little Flower," is a Christmas gift to Fontbonne which came from the place of the saint's burial through a student of the American College at Rome, Mr. Leo Joseph Zryd, of Marquette, Mich., who presented it to Sister Anna Mechtila, his former teacher.

The relic, which is accompanied with documents authenticating it, is to be encased in a reliquary and placed in the chapel. There it will be venerated by teachers and students, of whom The Little Flower has been a generous benefactor.

### "Play Making Easy" Says English Writer

*Continued from Page 1*

experience of life. Again, youthful writers seek to express what they have had no real experience of; not that it is necessary, he hastened to add, to have experienced every emotion one would express—at that rate, what could be thought of the private life of Shakespeare!—but at least one can not write outside one's own background of emotion.

Van Druten, who has spent four months in this country, from which he will soon sail for his home in England, is a graduate of the University of London, and is a professor of law in the University of Wales. His interest in American ideals and customs is marked, educational conditions naturally receiving a large share of his attention. He was enthusiastic in his comments on Fontbonne and the opportunities it offers. He came to the college through the courtesy of Mr. Beauvais Fox, of his company, who is a relative of Ellen de Lisle and Mary Cecilia Robinson, of the freshman class.

## ICE SKATING

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### Take a Chance

A five-dollar gold piece is being raffled by the seniors for the scholarship fund they are sponsoring. Chances are five cents each—no, not three for a dime—and are available from any senior. Take a chance, then hope you are the lucky one.

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### Academy Activities

In a quiet but impressive ceremony, Rosamond Mary Bennett was baptized in Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Saturday afternoon, Jan. 15, by Rev. H. R. Sheldon, chaplain. On Sunday morning, Jan. 16, she made her First Holy Communion in the college chapel. Rosamond, who is a junior in the academy, is from Carterville, Ill., as is also Elvera Visconti, a student in the college, who was her godmother, and Margaret Huss, who was a witness to the baptismal ceremony.

A white gold octagon with the monogram S. J. A. set in relief and "Fontbonne" engraved in the margin, with a yellow gold band on which the year 1927 is engraved, is the class ring of the seniors of '27. At present the academy has no standard ring, but if the present class ring meets with the approval of all, it may be adopted as such.

### History Students Examine Missouri Gazette of 1808

"If America will have war with Great Britain, she will have herself only to blame for the consequences." This is only one of many interesting statements to be found in a **Missouri Gazette** printed July 26, 1808 in "St. Louis, of Louisiana." This paper is one of many historical relics in which the American History class has been interested, and in the collection of which Mary Louise Ghio '30 has been very active. Printed several years before the War of 1812, the paper is filled with references to "orders in council," the "Milan decree" and other matters relative to the impressment of American seamen.

As regards local news, the paper prints the following interesting notice:

"At the election of trustees for the town of St. Louis on Saturday last, the following gentlemen were chosen: August Chateau, Edward Hempstead, Bernard Pratte, Peter Chateau and Alexander McNair Esquires."

To students of journalism the absence of headlines and the rambling style of this old paper furnishes an excellent example of the revolution which news writing has undergone in the last

hundred years. Advertisements are extremely simple and in the informal style of the following item: "Gentlemen holding subscription papers for this gazette are particularly requested to send them in."

A homely note is struck in the notice of an auction which ends with the following, "As the sole object of the sale is to raise the aforesaid sum of money, the goods must be sold, fetch what they will, therefore great bargains will be given."

There is also in the Fontbonne collection a manuscript personal diary of a '49er which describes minutely his arduous trip to California.

### Drama and Music at Feast of St. Agnes

*Continued from Page 1*

dramatic club under the direction of Mrs. O. A. Wall, Jr. The program follows: Greeting, Alice Beffa; Piano solo, Impromptu (Schubert), Florence Noble; Part songs—To a Wild Rose (McDowell), The Gossips (Gaynor), Glee Club; Piano solo, Liebestraume (Liszt), Mary Cecilia Robinson; "The Jumping Jack," cast of characters: King, Florentine Rutkowski; Court Physician, Jeanette Hartmann; Nursemaid, Mary Belle McCoole; Page, Dorothy O'Brien; Prince, Dorothy Jane Wittenburg; Cobbler's Boy, Mary Jane Houlihan; Town Crier, Mary Louise McPartlin; Fisherwomen, Lenadore Bass, Lucinda White, Elizabeth Hennessy; Dancers, Agnes Colline, Marjorie Chopin; Clown, Agnes Reilly; Musicians, Ruth Dougherty, Alice Igoe, Mary Stegman; Witch, Loretta Hennelly; Peasants, Mary Kiely, Catherine Phelan, Zelline Hobbs, Mary Aloysia Knapp, Ellen Delisle.

This week's performance of "The Jumping Jack" will be repeated February 4 as Fontbonne's contribution to Catholic Women's Day at the Women's Exposition, to be held at the Coliseum the week of January 30.

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### Parliamentary Law Courses Offered Alumnae Members

"Have you ever had something to say in meeting and hesitated to speak out, because you were not sure of the form in which to present your thought?" This is the opening sentence of a letter which has been sent out to the members of St. Joseph Alumnae Association, announcing parliamentary law courses which are being offered to alumnae members. The courses, which are under the direction of Miss Ada K. Gannon, are open to S. J. A. A. members through special arrangement with the C. C. W. and the C. W. A., under whose auspices the classes are being given. Two courses are being held: an afternoon course, Council of Catholic Women, 3810 Lindell Blvd., Tuesdays and Thursdays, at 2 p. m. Jan. 18, Feb. 3, and an evening course, Catholic Women's Association, C. W. A. Headquarters, 206 N. 8th St., at 8 p. m., Jan. 25, 28 and Feb. 2, 4, 9 and 11.

### Alumna Here from New York

A visitor at Fontbonne last week was Mrs. James Burt, of Albany, N. Y., who has come to the city to spend a few weeks with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Osterman, of 1835 Lafayette avenue. Mrs. Burt, who was formerly Edith Osterman, is a sister of Sister Catherine de Ricci, of the Fontbonne faculty, and the two, with the other members of their family, are active members of St. Joseph's Alumnae.

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