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Photos by Susan McKinney

"Laugh and the world laughs with you" so goes an old adage — and who but the clown can bring the world laughter. While Larry performed his facial transformation he discussed clowns, his favorite one being Lou Jacobs from the Ringling Bros.

People's Laughter His Business

By JOAN M. SMITH

'The comic face, the bald wig with brilliant red fringed hair, the tuxedo with huge red and white striped bow tie, the funny shoes, the perky top hat and voila! — we have Bongo the Clown alias Larry Staub.

Larry, who is a freshman at Bishop Kearney, says he's a happy clown, likes to make people laugh and has had professional training; for it. Though a circus goer all his life becoming a clown never entered his mind until a friend who had taken the Xerox course in clownology sparked the idea. Larry took the ten week course last April and is now a member of CLOX (Clown League of Xerox). This particular group entertains at various community events.

During the course, Larry learned costumes, tricks, jokes, and the artistry of make-up. It is the latter which he considers the hardest part of being a clown. He noted it takes 40 minutes to create the face. First comes a heavy white applied to the entire face and neck which is sprayed with a waterproofing solution. "Now," he explained, "I even can go swimming and it won't come

Next comes the red rouge, a flurry of powder, intricate brushing, added eyebrows and more waterproofing. Watching the procedure, RapAround decided it would take hours to remove it all.

Not so, said Larry. Though the make-up is removable only with an oil compound, the procedure takes only 10 minutes.

Now that he's in the business, Larry intends to keep at it but not in the professional area like the circus clowns. According to Larry, it is in the circus that clown training reaches its zenith. It is under the big top where clowns learn the art of elephant riding and acrobatics. Auditions are required for people wishing to join the circus as clowns and Larry further explained organizations like Ringling Brothers only accept the best. It is not unusual, he said, for as many as 300 people to audition and only 30 be accepted.

Larry, a graduate of Christ the King school, performs for birthday parties and this year entertained at the Kearney Karnival and at a recent school mini-course day. His act consists of magic and joke related antics. He has discovered that a clown routine is popular with everyone - kids, adults and seniors.

"Clowning," he said, "is universal regardless of age," and pointed out that the art goes back to the court jesters of ancient times.

Also, he has, no qualms, about audience reaction. True to circus tradition, the minute a clown takes center stage he has a captive audience.



BONGO

RPO Visit

The Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra Chamber Players, under the baton of Isaiah Jackson, performed in concert at Nazareth Academy, Wednesday, Jan. 10. The performance was a special one because the request for it originated from been impressed with last year's performance of the orchestra and their enthusiasm prompted Sister Beverly to request a return engagement. The program selected works by Bach, Arensky, and Respighi.

Winter **Specials**

Friday, Jan. 12 was a holiday for Bishop Kearney students and 130 of them boarded busses headed for Holiday Valley and a day of skiing. The day off was a reward for the success of the magazine drive in November.

After the ski trip it was an evening of dancing, Jan. 13, to the musical sounds of "Sugar Road in the school gym. Another dance is in the offing for Feb: 14 — the Valentine Sweetheart Ball.

On The Go

AQUINAS Jan. 19-25 - Exams.

BISHOP KEARNEY Friday, Jan. 19 —

Sophomore class event. Sat. Jan. 20 — Makeup Jan. 22-26 + Midterm exams.

CARDINAL MOONEY

Jan. 17-19 Sophomore retreat.

Tuesday, Jan. 23 — Faculty meeting, early dismissal; junior class ski party: Womens Guild

dinner meeting. Wednesday, Jan. 24 — Regents exam-basic compentency tests.

DESALES

Jan. 22-25 Regents and school mid-year exams.

MCQUAID

Wednesday, Jan. 17 — Faculty meetings, dismissal at 1:28 p.m.

NAZARETH-Thursday, Jan. 18 -Senior Film Festival, 8:30 a.m.; Theology and Art meetings.

Friday, Jan. 19 — Student Council meeting, 2:40-3:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 20 —

Makeup day for entrance exam at Bishop Kearney.

Monday, Jan. 22 — Finance Committee meeting, 4-5:30 p.m.; Music Department meeting, 6:15 p.m.

Exams begin.

NOTRE DAME

Wednesday, Jan. 17 --Future Secretary Association Contest; department heads meet after school; Religious Activities Committee meeting.

Sunday, Jan. 21 -Liturgy, 10 a.m. Jan. 22-26 - Exams.

OUR LADY OF MERCY Friday, Jan. 19 - Festa Italiana. Monday, Jan. 22 Administration Board meeting. Wednesday, Jan. 24 -

ST. AGNES Wednesday, Jan. 17 — Department heads

Regents exams.

meeting, 2:45 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 18 🚐 Homeroom moderators meeting, 2:45 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 19 — Junior ring assembly, 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 23 — Exams begin.

Competency Tests Crucial to Seniors

There has been a shift in priorities within the the public education system. In recent years, across the nation, parents, employers, community leaders have been questioning the results of the educational process. Answers haven't been satisfactory and pressure has been leveled at educational leaders to refocus the basics - reading, writing, arithmetic. Studies, conferences and observations have disclosed what was reported on a recent TV program - 17 per cent of this nation's youth are func-tionally illiterate. This at a time when other nations like China, which intends to be a modern power by the year 2000, are focusing on intense education of their young.

It was during the convulsive 60s that the curriculum became saturated with liberal courses. There was a general de-emphasis of formal education and a catering to student wishes. The experiment backlashed as more and more young people were graduating without functional knowledge.

In 1973, to stem this tide, the New York State Board of Regents instituted a policy requiring students graduating in 1979 to pass examinations in math and reading — the minimum competency exams

- formulated by the State Education Department. Similar writing tests will become effective in 1981.

These initial tests given to this years graduates when they were in the eighth and ninth grades were labelled as too easy by members of the Board. The criticism has led to stiffer competency tests which will be required for those graduating in 1981.

As June graduations approach, a debate has developed in New York City over the advisability of denying diplomas to some 7000 seniors because they haven't passed the minimum competency tests. Reported in the New York Times (1/12/12), Frank J. Mac-chiarola, chancellor of New York schools requested that the Board of Regents suspend the policy.

"A hasty and ill considered implementation," he ex-plained, "of what is, potentially, an extremely useful educational strategy, may undermine the very educational process it seeks to

The appeal was rejected butthe Board of Regents will meet later this month and the minimum competency program is on the agenda.