Second annual last non-minstrel

Hanszen Players clean up humor

By JEFF NORRIS

As promised in last week's Threshser, the Second Annual Last Hanszen Non-Minstrel, perhaps better known as the Hanszen Playhouse, did indeed come off last Friday night.

Playing to an audience of over 300, the "gentlemen of Hanszen" surprised nearly everyone by presenting a production keyed to be gross which turned out to be funny. To give Hanszen the benefit of the doubt. We will assume that this was not accidental.

Several jokes were enjoyable, at least for the sake of variety, in that they were clean. Other commendable innovations included jokes that were humorous without being pushed by the "actors" and the use of a number of jokes not commonly heard.

The cast of "Bingo" was generally good. Newcomer Chris Gates stole the show. Performances by lettermen Paul Spikes and Paul Lindsay lived up to expectation. Direction was unusually good for a Playhouse production as was well illustrated by such scenes as the "instant replay."

Of course, we can not deny that it was also gross, perhaps too much so in places.

It is interesting to remember that the black-face Minstrels were discontinued because they were thought to be in poor taste, because of the racial issue. At any rate this year, Hanszen did avoid the racial issue.

The men of Hanszen have apparently squeaked past another chance at social probation. Even though the Playhouse bore little resemblance to "Bye Bye Birdie" when all was said and done, it should be interesting to see how the EB's fight back this Friday and Saturday.