

The Ring-tum Phi

By the Students, for the University

Volume XXXVII

Washington and Lee University, Friday, January 29, 1934

Number 29

Colorful Set Reaches Climax Tonight

Old Calyx Files Reveal History Of Famous Ball

"The Fancy Ball," First
Of Long Series, Held
In 1907

DEFINITE THEMES
INTRODUCED IN '23

"Bal Masque" Of 1920
Was Part of Spring
Dances

Throughout the many years since the first Fancy Dress Ball was held on February 12, 1907, the themes and the general tone of the entire affair have been altered time and again. There have been themes of varying description—there have been balls without definite themes—there have been changes in social customs which have brought the present Fancy Dress into a form that would be hardly recognized by those who attended the earliest Balls.

An afternoon of research among old copies of the Calyx revealed a group of interesting facts. Anyway, most of them are unknown to the present generation of students.

Flirtation!

In the Calyx of 1907, for instance, "The Fancy Ball" was the subject of much comment in the literary department. There is no mention of a definite theme, but there is a reference regarding "John Alden," who, apparently, was found in "the corner, flirting with Cleopatra." These daring college boys!

In 1908, the ball again had no definite theme, but they did have a buffet lunch served at 12 o'clock "after which the happy couples danced until 2 a. m.," according to the Calyx.

"The Fancy Ball" was again the title of a page in the 1909 Calyx, but the only other outstanding feature was a sketch of a lady in a gorgeous costume of black with red hearts on it.

(Continued on page three)

The chaperones for the Fancy Dress Ball will be:

Mrs. Francis Pendleton Gaines
Mrs. Patrick Jay Hurley
Mrs. Henry Donald Campbell
Mrs. Lucius Junius Desha
Mrs. Robert William Dickey
Miss Jean Marie Faircloth
Mrs. Frank Johnson Gilliam
Dr. Meta Glass
Mrs. Theodore Henley Jack
Mrs. John Archer Lejeune
Mrs. William Haywood Moreland
Miss Sally Payne Morgan
Miss Bessie Carter Randolph
Mrs. Robert Henry Tucker
Miss Annie Jo White

Russia's Fairest Reigns Tonight



Miss Dorothy Fly of Shelbyville, Tennessee, who portrays the role of the Empress Marie Feodorovna, in the figure of the Twenty-eighth Fancy Dress Ball tonight. Miss Fly is a senior at Randolph-Macon Women's College at Lynchburg, Virginia.

Magazine Carries Ball Pictures In Number Appearing Today

Southern Collegian Features Article on Fancy Dress;
Photographs of Dance Leaders. One-Act Play
Occupies Prominent Position.

"The Southern Collegian," quarterly literary magazine, makes its appearance today featuring an article about Fancy Dress and pictures of the dance leaders. Appropriate comment on the dances has been included to make the issue suit the occasion.

One item which the editors think will come in for its share of attention is "The New and Revised Handbook for Freshmen." The freshmen will find here information about such things as Recreation and Sex Life, Social Life, Intellectual Life and the Good Life. Answers are given to such troublesome questions as: why senior lawyers carry canes, what to do when asked to join a fraternity, where to go for good advice, how to conduct oneself at

social events. "If we have helped anyone to lead a fuller and more richly endowed college career," the introduction runs, "we shall feel we have failed miserably."

Occupying the featured position at the center of the magazine, is a one-act play, "The First Little Man." The play treats of such widely divergent characters as a poet, a bishop, a certain gentleman from the "Times," and a leprecaun. When all four get together, the result is amusing satire.

C. P. Lee, Rhodes scholar and Washington and Lee M. A., has contributed an article on the late Dr. D. B. Easter. "A fine tribute to a well-beloved and popular

(Continued on page four)

Old Russia's Glories Give New Splendor To 28th Fancy Dress

Alexander III, the
Story of His Life,
Loves and Phobia



Harvard Smith

Who was Alexander III?

The curious will find a more extensive account of Alexander III; his life and loves in the Winter Issue of the Southern Collegian, from whose pages part of this account has been taken.

Alex was the son, and the second son, of Alex II. He was born in 1845 and ascended the throne in 1881 after the assassination of his father. He didn't step on older brother Nick's toes by doing this, for Nick had died a few years earlier, with a dying wish that Alex marry his fiance, the Princess Dagmar of Denmark. Which Alex promptly did, after making Dagmar eligible by converting her to the Eastern Orthodox church and changing her name to Marie Feodorovna.

Upholds Tradition

One would imagine that an emperorship and a nice new wife would make anyone happy. Not so the case with Alex III. He remained true to the tradition that all royal folk lead miserable lives. He brooded over his father's violent death to the extent that he failed to have his coronation until nearly three years later, fearing a public appearance unhealthful. In those three years he firmly entrenched himself on the throne, ruling with an iron

(Continued on page four)

Dignity and Gayety Clash
In Reconstructional
Moscow Kremlin

REVEL FEATURES
CORONATION BALL

Festive Spirit Reigns As
Czar and Czarina
Entertain

Amid the reflected glory of imperial Russia's most elaborate splendor, another Washington and Lee Fancy Dress Ball is in full swing in Doremus gymnasium tonight.

Examinations are over, grades still unknown, and a festive spirit that even the Czars of Russia could not command holds sway in the gym.

Imperial dignity and collegiate gayety, the stately, authentic decorations of Moscow's far-famed Kremlin and the bizarre effect of student-created costumes—all vie for the center of attraction in the kaleidoscopic scene of flashing, riotous color that is Fancy Dress.

Dignity and Gayety

In the Russian Socialist Federal Republic, Alexander III, and all his illustrious ancestors, too, are forgotten, but the grand old figures of the empire would be right at home in Doremus gymnasium tonight. For the newly crowned Czar and his Czarina entertain representatives of all classes of Russia, Grand Dukes, peasants, and Cossacks consorting in high fellowship.

And anyone else, from any part of the world, in any sort of outlandish costume, would feel as much at home as the Grand Dukes, for among the dancers there are many who look as startling as they.

Fancy Dress Bands During the Past Decade

1924—Jan Garber and his Garber-Davis Orchestra.
1925—Weidmeyer's Orchestra.
Shannon's Pennsylvanians
1926—Oliver Naylor's Orchestra.
1927—California Ramblers.
1928—Oliver Naylor's Orchestra.
1929—Ted Weems.
1930—Jean Goldkette
1931—Hal Kemp.
1932—Bernie Cummins.
1933—Bernie Cummins.
1934—Johnny Hamp.

The Ring-Tum Phi

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JAMES D. McCULLY, '34A.....Business Manager

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FANCY DRESS SPIRIT TAKES THE STUDENT BODY

Strange it is to see the change that has come over the campus now that Fancy Dress is actually here. A few weeks ago nothing was right; the band seemed the worst possible choice, the drive for funds had not gone as it should, the theme was too elaborate and could never be carried out, nobody was going because of the poor prospects of the dances. Now the whole scene has shifted. With the strain of the examinations over, everyone feels in the holiday spirit. Last-minute orders are being made for costumes, students are rushing about the campus trying to get tickets, everyone walks over to the gymnasium at least once a day to see how the decorations are coming along, and the girls are arriving as the twenty-eighth Fancy Dress is under way.

This year's Fancy Dress incorporates two new features. O. D. K. is sponsoring a dance on Saturday night which fills in the blank that formerly occurred on Saturday. This is the first dance that O. D. K. has sponsored here, and, in addition to planning what promises to be one of the best dances, it has incorporated the most praiseworthy feature of omitting the figure from the evening's program. The Saturday night dance is the shortest of the whole set and the omission of the usual objectionable parade will be welcomed by all the student body.

This morning there was a dansant at the Robert E. Lee hotel sponsored by Kappa Alpha and Sigma Alpha Epsilon. This morning's feature dance was one of the largest and best ever staged on the campus. The plan which is used here is thought one of the best methods of handling the problem of fraternity dances. When two fraternities go together and sponsor a dance the orchestra is better, they are able to give the dance in a better place and it avoids the confusion which exists when there are afternoon dances sponsored at the fraternity houses scattered all over the campus.

Each year sees some new innovations, some improvements and additions to the Fancy Dress program. Each year the ball becomes more elaborate than its predecessors, but the traditions and atmosphere of the ball always remain the same. The customs and manners of the campus always inject their share to this famous function and after all they are the factors which make this

occasion distinctive and form the real essence of one of the most famous of collegiate social affairs—Washington and Lee's Fancy Dress Ball.

O. D. K. SETS PRECEDENT WITH NO FIGURE

Omicron Delta Kappa set something of a precedent this year when it emerged from a prolonged period of passive existence and undertook to assay a rather unassuming role of active leadership in student and University affairs. Now it comes forward with a second unexpected action and announces there will be no figure in the dance of the Fancy Dress set that it is to sponsor—no tedious, colorless, long-drawn-out parade to interrupt the evening's enjoyment.

Dances have become so figure-ridden at Washington and Lee that this announcement is a startling one indeed. That any organization should give a dance and then pass up the opportunity for a public display will be shocking to those who delight in such performances, but the majority of the student body will receive O. D. K.'s announcement with hearty commendation and hope that other organizations will follow the example.

A figure is part of the color and glamour of Fancy Dress and essential to the sentiment of Final Ball, but its meaning is destroyed and it becomes devoid of all interest when the same maneuvers are repeated over and over every time a group assembles in Doremus gymnasium to enjoy a dance. When a figure has special significance, originality, or beauty to recommend it, it is in order. Yet many unnecessarily interrupted dances bear testimony to the fact that common sense and discrimination that prompted O. D. K. to overcome the "figure urge" is often called for. For the satisfaction of everyone, with the exception of a few chronic paraders, it is desirable that other organizations follow the leadership of the leadership fraternity.

Now is the winter of our discontent over as the poet said, for all exams are over. Next comes the test in the terpsichorean art.

The dispensing of tickets for the dances this year has been most admirably handled. One was anaesthetized into paying the \$9.00 by the dazzling smiles of the young ladies, and we paid without a whimper when they smiled at us and asked whether we had gotten ours.

Something really should be done for the Sophomores who have two exams on the last day.

Although all of us may be excited as to how we came out on the exams, consider the plight of the February grads who wish to know whether they get the sheep-skins or not.

Is Fancy Dress degenerating to a mere enterprise? The ticket-scalping activities of at least one student seem to bring it down to the level of championship prize-fights and Broadway plays. But the young speculator is making profits of approximately 100 per cent. What price Social Glory????

Despite the storm of criticism of the committee's choice of an orchestra, everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves at the Junior Prom last night. Wonder what all the raving was about, anyway?

Old hands at this Fancy Dress costuming business advise the newer men that a couple of safety pins may come in handy sometime during the evening. Not the fault of Mr. Van Horne and his colleagues, but these costumes are not always easy to keep together, especially at the most essential points of contact.

The Parapet

After successive reigns of imperial Japanese potentates, French emperors, Chinese war-lords, Spanish kings, cannibal chiefs, and Lilliputian lieutenants, this year's lord and light of Fancy Dress Ball is Alexander the Third, czar of all the Russias. Instead of the lilting chants at Tokyo, the clink of champagne glasses on the terraces at Versailles, the swirl of castanets on the patios of Madrid, the beat of tom-toms on a palmy island, tonight will be a musical festival of tremulous accordions, strumming banjos, and imperial bugles as royally and renegades, ambassadors and admirals, captains and cosacks, and maidens and mistresses dance the light kazotska (you spell it), perhaps under the warming graces of modern vodka.

The idea of inviting the new Russian ambassador to the United States to Fancy Dress ball as conceived by those perennial inviters of Jean Harlow, Mae West, Wynne Gibson, and Katherine Hepburn, must have lost some of its appeal when stickler student salvationists pointed out that the minister represented the Soviet regime, to whom the mention of the imperial Romanoffs is stark anathema. Our comrade from abroad would hardly relish the prospect of seeing Czar Alexander III so magnificently and laudably glorified. Maybe Ziegfeld, but not the Russian minister.

And as the last strains of the last waltz died away tonight, another Fancy Dress Ball will have passed, with the inevitable incidents that are destined to become campus lore immediately being subjected to the process of elaboration and ballad polish. Who among the seniors do not remember the incidents of a cat and her train of seven kittens disrupting a dignified figure, of a dean severely chastising a girls' school chaperone for her abbreviated skirts, of the girl who came to the ball in the fluffy finery of an angel and at the end of "Tiger Rag" looked like Eve after a Kansas hurricane, or the tubful of articles that were recovered from various parts of the campus one Saturday morn and taken to the Corner Store for distribution to the rightful owners?

Although there has been criticism of the selection of Johnny Hamp, it will be well to remember that Bernie Cummins, Don Bestor, and Tal Henry among others were all severely condemned after selection by dance committees, but after playing for the first time were widely applauded and acclaimed. And Joe Haymes, whose not so long ago selection for a set was received with such enthusiastic and approving fervor, is now the little boy with no drag as far as W. and L. students are concerned. Such is life and moosic.

TAPS: Tonight...when the collegiate social event that vies with Dartmouth's winter carnival for national supremacy takes place...there will be an unassuming spectator...by the name of Miss Annie White...a grey-haired little lady with a twinkling smile...who first started Fancy Dress Ball years ago...and now sees it in all its modern glory and elaborateness...but still asserts that "the old days were far, far better"...wonder if the inability of Hollins girls to get over for the dances put a severe crimp in certain men-about-state...several social butterflies of the Atlantic seaboard will wing their way through Doremus tonight...



Now that the frantic flurry of best year selections of film dramatizations is dying away over yonder painted desert, the critical tribe can get down to the fundamental business of reviewing gelatins and sorting out the scents from the smells and vice versa. But as a final crow to those cynics who hooted our selection of "Lady For a Day" as the year's best, we point out that the photoplay received the highest ranking in selections made two weeks later in New York, Philadelphia, and Coast critics. And now on with the parade of 1934.

In the stream of pictures that flowed through the New and Lyric theatres while **The Ring-tum Phi** was in abeyance during exams, "Dinner at Eight," "Dancing Lady," and "Counsellor-at-Law" were probably the most outstanding. Of course none were of recent vintage, but the three mentioned were plays deserving of the ultimate star ranking so happily indulged in by the tabloid and nickel slicks.

In "Dinner at Eight" we failed to see where Jean Harlow deserves her indictment of stealing the show from the principals. Billie Burke and John Barrymore were far more dramatically convincing than Harlow in her most generous shot. And in this picture and "Counsellor-at-Law" we note that John Barrymore's acting is taking on an air of maturity and finish that will unquestionably place him foremost among American actors. Gone are the sophisticated blinkings of the eyelids, the vapid flourish of curved palms, the Prussian bow. In the place of these sure-fire virtues is a Barrymore of intelligence, restraint, and intuitive balance.

In emphatic contrast to "Counsellor-at-Law" was another legal slice in "If I Were Free," one of the dullest, most slow-moving, and unoriginal vehicles this column has ever commented upon. Irene Dunne, despite a pretty face and an intelligent voice, rarely rose above a wraithlike impression.

Among the less important but enjoyable offerings were "Son of a Sailor," "The World Changes," and "Girl Without a Room." Two notable comebacks at the Lyric were "Sitting Pretty," and a picture called "The Late Christopher Bean," but which, for the benefit of the local mountaineers and farmerettes was given the title of "Her Sweetheart"! An intelligently directed picture, and one which gave Lionel Barrymore and Dressler ample opportunity for excellent performances.

BEST SHOTS:

"Dinner at Eight"—John Barrymore's preparations prior to taking gas.

"The World Changes"—Paul Muni's entrance into the stock exchange.

"Dancing Lady"—Gable's gymnastics with Crawford.

"Counsellor-at-Law"—Barrymore's attempt at suicide and frustration.

"If I Were Free"—The End.

"Son of a Sailor"—The finger-bowl drinking episode.

"Sitting Pretty"—The asylum inmate picking up Oakie and Haley.

"Christopher Bean"—Dressler's determination not to part with her portrait.

Old Calyx Files Reveal History Of Famous Ball

(Continued from page one)

The only unusual thing that could be discovered about the Ball of 1910 was that it was held on Monday night.

Innovation

An innovation was made in 1911, when the leader's name was mentioned on the Fancy Dress page. R. A. Waddill was the gentleman's name, but the name of his 'date' is unknown.

In 1912, the leader was augmented by a corps of four vice-presidents and, wonder of wonders! a squad of trumpeters. What their duty was is left to the imagination—could it be that in that title lies the origin of the modern term "Tubing?"

Apparently the vice-presidents worked very well, because in 1913 their number was increased to SEVEN. The trumpeters were dropped.

"Them Happy Days"

However, the brass-band idea of 1912 reappeared in 1914, when a drum major was added to the list of officers. Incidentally, a sketch facing the Fancy Dress page brings back the recollection that in those happy, halcyon days, the men who had girls were not mobbed by a dozen or more stags. No sir! The sketch shows a dance program, a thing probably almost unknown to most present-day students. Listed on the program were about thirty dances, alternating "two-steps" and waltzes. Compare that to the dance tonight—and see how many waltzes there are!

The lady who was the leader's date in 1915 must have been outstanding, for her name appears with his in the list of important people at the Ball. That was the first time that any particular notice had been taken of the fair sex in the Calyx.

Colonial

The first suggestion of a definite theme appears in 1916, for, according to a picture of the figure, colonial costumes predominated. This was another innovation, being the first time the figure had attracted sufficient respect to warrant its portrait in the annual.

The influence of American friendship for France just before the United States entered the war is seen in a dangerous move to change the name of Fancy Dress Ball to "Bal Masque."

Patriotic spirit in 1918 brought the name back to the original American term, however, for a ball in which there were a number of young men in the uniform of the United States Army and Navy. Flags of the allied nations featured the decoration scheme.

In 1919, another short-lived change in the aspect of Fancy Dress appeared when there were no Thanksgiving dances, but a larger Fancy Dress set than usual. The actual Ball was on a Monday night, preceded on Friday and Saturday by the Junior and Sophomore Proms.

Ball Masque

Fancy Dress set almost disappeared in 1920, when there were no dances at the usual time between semesters, and a "Ball Masque" was given on April 14, as a part of the usual Spring Dances. The next year, however, 1921, the Ball was given on February 1, and since then has not strayed far from that date.

No theme could be discovered for the ball that year, but added to the usual list of officers and committees there was a group of courtiers, so it may be assumed

that the figure was something related to royalty.

Again in 1922, the exact theme could not be ascertained, but a Calyx picture shows a beautiful lady with a little girl beside her, seated on sort of a throne above which hangs a huge crescent. Turkish, mebbe, huh?

Opera and Jazz

But in 1923, they came out in the open with a full title for the Ball, calling it "Le Bal des Operas." The figure was made up of characters from the leading grand operas (including Samson and Delilah). The only out-of-place aspect was a group called "jazz," in those days something new and as yet not fully understood.

"My Lady of the Fans," an exotic oriental pageant, under the direction of Mr. C. E. Gill, was the theme in 1924, and, judging by the Calyx illustrations, must have been something worth seeing.

The same Mr. Gill produced "The Evolution of the Dance" for the 1925 Ball. In the figure appeared groups attired in costumes who went through various dance steps of history.

In 1926, Fancy Dress became something like the famous Beaux Artes Ball of Greenwich Village, and the groups were given names like "Sculpture, Music, Poetry."

Venetian Holiday

All Europe, from the Middle Ages to the twentieth century, was represented in the costumes of the 1927 Ball, which adopted for its theme "Carnival at Venice."

The exact nature of the theme of 1928 could not be ascertained, but Calyx pictures show a wide variation in the tone of costumes adopted by the campus leaders of that time.

"The Arabian Nights," in 1929, provided an opportunity for a brilliant array of colorful costumes among the figure-makers, and groups in the figure assumed names such as "Turks," "Assyrians," etc.

The scene was transferred to Spain for 1930, when the groups represented "Barcelona," "Andalusia" and "Guardia Civile."

For the theme of the 1931 Ball, the leaders went back to the Medieval England of Robin Hood and Richard Coeur de Lion, and Sherwood Forest lived again in Doremus Gym. (Wonder if there were any casualties from bows and arrows used indiscriminately?).

Bi-Centennial

With all America celebrating George Washington's bi-centennial in 1932, it was only natural for the college which bears his name to celebrate appropriately, and the figure leaders were dressed as George and Martha themselves. The rest of the members represented other men and women of Colonial and Revolutionary times.

The "Grandeur of Spain under Philip II" brought to life again for the 1933 Fancy Dress "The Ball of the Grandees," a gorgeous spectacle in which the lace mantillas of the senoritas and the flowing, broad-brimmed, feathered hats of the senors, topped the procession.

Now, in 1934, the scene is moved to Northern Europe for the first time, to re-enact the Coronation of the Czar Alexander III. Just wait'll you see it!

Class Schedule Changes

All students wishing to make any changes in their schedules for the next semester must do so, tomorrow, January 27. The second semester will open Monday morning, January 29, at 8:30 o'clock. The Ring-tum Phi will resume regular publication on Tuesday, January 30.

Figure Leaders as Grand Duke and Princess Alice



Vice - President H e a d s
Group with Miss Mary
Christine Hughes



James D. McCully, 34A, of Logansport, Indiana, and Miss Mary Christine Hughes of North Holston, Virginia, will be the assistant leaders of the Fancy Dress Figure tonight. McCully will portray the Grand Duke Nicholas and Miss Hughes will assist him as Princess Alice of Hesse.

McCully is the vice-president of the Fancy Dress set, business manager of The Ring-tum Phi, wrestling manager and president of the "13" club. His fraternity is Sigma Alpha Epsilon.

Miss Hughes attended school at Arlington Hall, Virginia, and has led the figures of the "13" Club and Fancy Dress in former years.

FANCY DRESS, 1933



She Gave Us Our Fancy Dress



Miss Annie Jo White, whose costume party in 1907, given with the proceeds of a university play, was the first Fancy Dress Ball. Miss Annie, once University Librarian, managed and planned every Fancy Dress Ball from the founding until the early twenties, when illness forced her to relinquish the reins. Miss Annie is a chaperone at this year's Ball.

C. H. Lauck Designs This Year's Program

The programs for this year's Fancy Dress Ball, designed by C. Harold Lauck of the Virginian Publishing company, present a departure from the form and content of programs of former years.

The Junior Prom section has been eliminated, as have the names of those on the Fancy Dress committees, making this year's program smaller in pages. The color scheme of the program cover, red and gold, carries out the color scheme of the decorations.

The program was printed by the Virginian Publishing company.

Life of Alexander III Reveals Unhappiness

(Continued from page one)

hand and a suspicious attitude toward strangers.

The seclusion couldn't last forever. The Russians are a primitive and barbaric people, with a love of pomp and display, and after three years of waiting for a big party they began to grow restless. An emperor not publicly crowned was no emperor to them. Thus on May 15, 1883, Alex was crowned Emperor of all the Russias by all available Grand Dukes and he took a personal hand in crowning Marie.

After the ceremony came a week of celebration, the high point of which was a banquet and ball. All the populace joined in the fun, and the figures tonight are representative of the groups and classes.

Magazine's Winter Issue Features Fancy Dress Ball

(Continued from page one)

man who for generations made French classes memorable for Washington and Lee men," George Foster, editor, characterizes it.

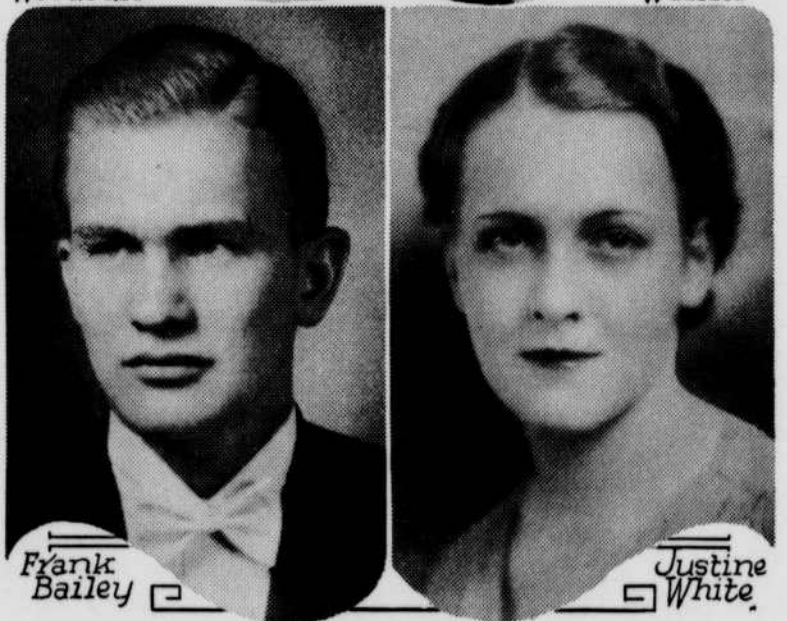
Many of the features which attracted comment in the Autumn Number have been continued. Joe Ford is still reviewing movies for the magazine and his opinion of current films should find many interested readers. Sam Canteay writes reviews of the new Ernest Hemingway short stories, as well as considering works by Somerset Maugham and Dorothy Parker. The "Dissenter's Chair," running comment by Jim Brown on contemporary happenings, has a few things to say this time about dances, politics, Bishop Cannon, and the liquor situation.

The Collegian's short story contest resulted in an unusually excellent group of stories for this issue. Lester Litwin, James E. Brown, and Joe Ford are represented by stories which are varied in technique and appeal. This is Litwin's first contribution to the "Collegian," but he was a frequent contributor to the literary magazine at William and Mary.

Tom Coley continues his remarks about the stage. His article in this issue is called "Program Notes" and covers a wide range of topics, from the Princeton Triangle Show to anecdotes about John Beal and Bettina Hall, two old favorites of his. "Your Favorite Band" is discussed in a contribution by Dick McLaughlin. Other items of interest are a new department—"Letters to the Editor"—and the usual editorial columns.

A new type of cover is being used for the magazine with this issue. It was designed by Calvin Dold and the editors feel it will harmonize more with the contents of the "Collegian" than other types used in recent years.

Figure Leaders of One Year Ago



Frank Bailey, president of Fancy Dress of 1933, and Miss Justine White (now Mrs. Bailey) who led the figure last year as King Philip II of Spain and his queen. Above is Pickens Walker, vice-president, and Miss Emily Woodruff, who assisted the King and Queen in presiding over "the Ball of the Grandees."

FANCY DRESS, 1932



FANCY DRESS, 1932

