

The Ring-tum Phi

Friday Edition
Member of Virginia Intercollegiate Press Association

IFC Rush Plan: An Appraisal

The IFC's proposal has passed one vote, and must now be passed again. The proposal certainly has its merits, but it is not without its faults.

As we understand it, the new plan is designed to alleviate the strain that early rush imposes on incoming freshmen. It is argued that the excitement and, quite often, the disappointment of the present rush system serves to start the freshman off with a warped sense of values. This argument is, of course a generalization, but it probably contains more than a little truth. The IFC's plan, with its period of adjustment, would help rectify this problem.

The new plan, however, could very well create more problems than it would solve. Like it or not, fraternities are a fact of life on this campus, for they are the primary means by which a student may become acquainted with the characteristics that distinguish Washington and Lee from other schools. This is an important service, but it is one which has been seriously impaired since the advent of the Commons three years ago. Fraternity influence over freshmen has been irreparably damaged simply because the individual house must now wait a full year to effectively "assimilate" new students.

The new rush plan could conceivably aggravate this situation. During their first month here, the freshmen will have virtually no contact with upper-classmen, and, after rush, the pledge period will be shorter. Fraternities will inevitably exercise less influence over the freshmen, and the result could be a further weakening of the assimilation process.

Certain members of the faculty feel that the fraternity social life often conflicts with W&L's academic life, and they would like to reduce the influence that fraternities have on incoming students. But these men seem to ignore the fact that fraternities provide the framework for the assimilation process here, and that a substitute for this process must be found if fraternities are to be deprived of their hold on freshmen. Presumably, this fact was recognized when the Commons was built, but, nevertheless, absolutely nothing seems to have been done about it. As of now, the freshmen live by themselves, eat their meals by themselves, and attend classes by themselves. They have no means by which to orient themselves to life at W&L, for the faculty advisory system provides almost no help, and they have very little contact with upperclassmen. This year's dorm counselors have been complaining of the situation all year, and Billy Atwell's article on this page seems to bear out their conclusions.

Ideally, the weakening of the fraternity hold on freshmen would allow the faculty to shift the emphasis here from social pursuits to academic pursuits. The faculty seems to think that this process would be automatic, that de-emphasis of social life would of necessity lead to an improvement of the academic climate.

But the process is by no means automatic. It takes more than classes six days a week to create an intellectual atmosphere. There must be constant outside-the-classroom student-faculty communication, and there must be a general air of intellectual activity, which would include the best possible outside speakers and scholars-in-residence. The economics and chemistry departments excepted, student-faculty relations at W&L are remarkably inadequate, and the outside speaker program, despite the presence of Mr. Albee and Senator Tower this week, has been poor this year. The initiative for improvement in these areas must come from the faculty. If the faculty expects to improve the academic climate at W&L, then it must take positive steps to assimilate the freshmen intellectually. The Commons has all but eliminated the power of fraternities in this area. It's now up to the faculty.

Our only reservation about the IFC's proposal is that it may aggravate the present poor state of freshman assimilation. If the faculty will accept more responsibility for assimilating new students, then the threat will be removed, and the new rush proposal may stand for what it is: a conscientious and commendable plan to iron out the flaws in the present rush system. If the faculty will not accept the responsibility, then the new plan will only make a bad situation worse.

A University Party Jolt

Monday night's revolt of the University Party majority in the freshman class shook quite a few people up. It should have. For upperclassmen have been growing more and more out of touch with each year's freshman class since the advent of the Commons.

The freshmen in the University Party felt, rightly, that they had had no voice in choosing their candidates for sophomore class offices. So they just turned against their party candidates, most of whom were able and well-liked men.

If there has been a failure in the two cliques' nominating process, it has been in nominations for freshman and sophomore class officers. The reason is that the clique meetings are run by juniors and seniors with very little freshman or sophomore representation. If the two parties are to be as responsive to the feelings of the student body as they claim to be, they must make greater provision for an underclass voice in their councils.

Letters To The Editor . . .

Morgan Condemns Walker

Letter to the Editor:
After thumbing past the beaming picture of one Antoine "Fats" Domino on the front page of the Tuesday R-t P, I discovered a more sombre section of the paper in the "Letters to the Editor" column on the next page. In this rather sickening example of the attitude which I fear is fast becoming dominant at W&L, the author, one Sam Walker denounces everything from the students' capabilities of reasoning to the University itself.

The author accuses W&L of being nothing more than a post-graduate high school, but in the light of his arguments, he proves that the opposite is true. He advocates more faculty control and suggests that the faculty alone is capable of making decisions for the student body. Really, Mr. Walker, doesn't that remind you of the good old days back at Home Town High? Or was there an interest by the students in the affairs of your high school, which is apparently a sure sign of weakness according to your letter? It would seem to me that as a man becomes older and more mature, he is more able to participate directly in the decisions of his school, not the reverse, which Mr. Walker loudly proclaims.

Here at W&L, there is, or has been until recently, an excellent relationship between the university and the fraternities. It has been a relationship which no other college can claim because nowhere else has it been as successful. The scholastic life and the social life at W&L have been considered separate, neither treading on the territory of the other. Monday through Friday belonged to the Hill and the weekend was the domain of the Fraternity. In this way, a balance was achieved by which both bodies prospered.

Now it seems that the faculty feels it necessary to over-step its limits and take fraternity action into its own hands, giving as excuses that the students are suddenly incapable or that the traditions of dance weekends might be lost. The real reason lies, however, in the increased activity toward raising the academic standards at W&L to place W&L in competition with other institutions of its same size. This is admirable, but what exists here now—the union of university and fraternity—is far more important. Students apply at W&L because they expect to find this union, whereas at many other colleges such as Amherst, fraternities are little more than places to live and study, lacking the
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The annual spring art exhibit, displaying the best works of the first and second year art students, is now set up in duPont Hall. Oil paintings, sketches, and sculpture-work are included. Each student submitted three or four of his best works of the year to the show. Dr. Marion Junkin said he was "very impressed" with the work this year.

Photo by Campbell

'An Experience, Not A Play . . .'

Albee Discusses Absurd Theatre

By TRACY HARRINGTON

Edward Albee doesn't look like a playwright. He's slender, polite and friendly, and gives the impression of an intelligent, moderately conservative business man.

He appears almost strikingly unostentatious. The first thing one notices about him, and remembers the longest, is the penetrating stare he levels at everybody with hard, iron-gray eyes.

That this man represents a highly controversial movement in modern dramatic literature seems (if you'll pardon the pun) absurd; but Edward Albee, 34-year-old author of *The Zoo Story*, *The American Dream*, and *The Death of Bessie Smith*, is one of the most increasingly significant protagonists of the Theatre of the Absurd.

In an informal hotel room interview with members of the Friday Ring-tum Phi and French professor Jay Laurence Taylor Tuesday, Albee talked about himself, the Absurd Theatre, and other playwrights.

If the play-goer wants to appreciate an Absurd drama, he must go "not expecting a play, but expecting an 'experience,'" Albee said. "Then you don't have any preconceptions and can absorb the thing for what it is," he added.

The theatre of the Absurd, in the main, is an outgrowth of existentialist philosophy. Its playwrights deal with the senselessness of society and the world, and with man's trying to find some meaning where there is none.

A movement that tries to do something like this is criticized primarily, perhaps, for its brutal cynicism and bitterness. One might expect its proponents to be unpleasant non-conformists with long hair and dirty teeth, who converse in intellectual obscurities and falsely erudite vernacular. Albee definitely isn't one of these.

Kind of an Explosion

He thinks about a play for a while—"around six months"—and then does the actual writing in a relatively short time. *The Zoo Story*, which opened Wednesday night at the Troubadour Theatre with another Albee play, *The American Dream*, was "kind of an explosion. I didn't understand it myself," Albee said, adding somewhat ironically "I have to learn from others (critics) exactly what I meant."

The artist's typical aversion for critics was pointed out again in Albee's answer to an inquiry as to what writers had influenced him. "I have been influenced by every-

body I have read. Critics are always saying who has influenced me: I made a list once and stopped at 23. Some of them I had never read."

The Playwrights He Likes

He did say that there are four 20th Century authors whom he prefers over others, these being Chekhov, Beckett, "the late" O'Neill, and Brecht.

Someone commented to Albee on the fact that his plays seemed to be centered always in America. Admitting that this was true, he said there is "an artificiality in writing about foreigners in something besides their own language." He went on to say it might be so that "if a play is about Frenchmen, it should be in French. I don't try to write about America—I guess it's just that I know America and American problems better; and, after all, a play can't be set in limbo; logically, it must be set someplace."

Less Naturalistic

In discussing the future of the Theatre of the Absurd, playwright Albee felt that the trend would be even more away from naturalistic techniques. "The whole concept of reality and illusion will be explored, and Absurd plays will be less 'easy.'"

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Pressing Problem For Washington & Lee: Top-Notch Freshmen Make Transfer Plans

By BILL ATWELL

Life at Washington and Lee has undergone much discussion lately as to what it should and does mean. An atmosphere of dissatisfaction has been noticed, particularly in the freshman class.

Approximately 25 freshmen left on their own accord at the end of the first semester; rumor has it that 30 or so will leave at the end of this semester.

Included in the group that plans to leave after this semester are four members of Phi Eta Sigma, of which two are the number one and two men scholastically in the freshman class. Many of the others who won't return in the fall are boys with above 2.0 averages.

Why the Mass Exodus?

Why is there this mass exodus of seemingly top quality people? In interviews with several transferring freshmen, we have tried to learn what they thought were the strong and weak points about W&L.

The only man in the freshman class with a 3.0 last semester was Charles Osment. He's leaving, and his main reason for it is the lack of necessary courses here in the field of his planned major, medical research.

In addition, however, he feels there is a definite condition of mental apathy among the student body. "I don't think Washington and Lee can be called an institution of intellectual inquiry where students learn for the joy and satisfaction of learning."

Fraternities at Fault

Osment also believes that the fraternities should emphasize scholastics more than they do at the present. "Academics seem to take second place to social activities," he added.

When asked about what he saw good in the University, Osment immediately cited the Honor System as the best attribute of W&L.

George James is a member of Phi Eta Sigma, has done research in English with Dr. Douglas Day, and was a member of the successful W&L swimming team.

His leaving has been prompted by what he calls desire for an urban environment, as well as a larger school with more courses in his chosen field.

Intellectual Apathy

He also has been bothered by "intellectual apathy among the freshmen." He mentioned the social aspects of W&L as being over-emphasized a great deal.

"Bull sessions are stifling because they seem to revolve around the same nonsensical topics. I simply get tired of listening to how much someone can drink before he passes out."

The Honor System is the embodiment of what James considers to be the good points of the school. He, like Osment, expects it to be in effect no matter where he goes to school.

Mike Crabill was the second ranked student scholastically in the freshman class last semester, with a 2.82 grade point ratio. His reason for leaving is quite simple. "Metatlogical majors have trouble finding courses to take here."

Mike said that he had enjoyed his stay and that his leaving was just a question of completing his major.

Seeking Better Courses

John Rosenberg is a ZBT freshman who plans to leave Washington and Lee at the end of this semester. The desire to attend a larger institution with a wider choice of courses has prompted his decision.

John feels a sense of pride in the Honor System and in "other traditions which are, unfortunately, pretty much neglected."

The opportunity to go to a large

school like Tulane and to be in a big city like New Orleans has been the prime factor in Lee Johnson, a 2.5 man, choosing to leave W&L.

"Anyone who has ever gone to school in New Orleans will immediately know why I'm leaving. Lexington is so bad."

Johnson was, like the others, impressed with the Honor System.

In addition to freshmen transferring who have been quoted, there are a number leaving who prefer to make their remarks anonymously. The following opinions are taken from such students, all of whom hold a grade average of 2.0 or better.

Simply Not That Difficult

"I don't see how this school could possibly be ranked as one of the top colleges in the country" commented one freshman. "The school is simply neither that good nor difficult."

Another said that "even though the faculty is generally distinguished and their accomplishments should be recognized, I don't see them bringing about a driving sense of intellectual stimulation, or maybe what I should call an electric atmosphere."

A few students had remarks on the present freshman curriculum.

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Generals Battle For Ball With Tar Heels

Lacrosse Team To Face Blue Devils Saturday

Washington and Lee's goalie Ray Miller may prove to be the deciding factor as the Generals come up against Duke this Saturday in their 11th lacrosse match of the season.

The Generals, whose 1-9 record is almost identical to Duke's 1-8 record, will be counting heavily on Miller and his 20 saves per game average to keep the Blue Devils out of the scoring column. Miller who has an impressive tally of over 200 saves in games this year, has been selected as the South's goalie in June's North-South Game.

With both teams going into Saturday's fray carrying only one victory apiece, authorities have picked it to be the closest lacrosse contest of the weekend. Washington and Lee managed to defeat Duke in '59 and '60 but gave up a close one last year as the Blue Devils turned in a 6-3 victory.

Duke, rated as a big, "hard-nosed" team, will be on their toes this weekend and shooting for another

victory to even the score for the four game series. Little Jim Griffith, 5'5", will be leading their attack as their outstanding player. Rated as one of the best attackmen to face W&L this year, Griffin makes up for his lack of size with brilliant stick-work and speed. Outstanding defenseman Mike Welsh will also be at his best, aiming to give W&L's Carroll Klingelhofer and Bob Hankey a tough time around the Blue Devils' goal.

Despite the fact that both teams appear to be going into the game fairly evenly matched the Generals will have a definite advantage with Miller in the goal since Duke's goalie has been rated as poor to fair.

Cross-Country Anticipates Excellent Season In Fall

By ANDY KILPATRICK

This fall the cross-country team will battle Washington and Lee's 4.1 mile course with one of the best teams in recent years. The team will be led over the hilly terrain (the course is considered one of the toughest anywhere) by returning senior co-captains Mike Shank and Mac Brownlee.

Shank is the undisputed cross-country champ of W&L, having won every race he started on the W&L course this year, and having established a school record of 24 min. 20 sec. on the lengthened course.

Entire Team Returns

The entire team will be returning in the fall, as there were no seniors on this year's squad, and to give it further depth, Coach Miller will make every effort to recruit distance runner Charlie Head and track star Skip Essex. If Coach Miller can succeed in convincing these boys that Telegraph Hill (an obstacle which is the point of truth about two miles out on the course) is not as steep or as long as it really is, the team could develop into a really superior group, especially with the aid of some good freshmen.

Other returning runners will be Bruce MacDonald, Dillard Munford, Dave Mosbaugh, Gene Friedberg, Mark Gee, and Bob Farrar.

Season 7-2

The team this year marked up a 7-2 season by defeating Randolph-Macon, Lynchburg, Fairmont State, Richmond, and Dickinson, and obtained forfeits from Pfeiffer, and Hampden-Sydney. W&L lost only to strong Bridgewater and F&M teams.

Richmond, Dickerson, and Hampden-Sydney have been dropped from the schedule for 1962, but Norfolk William and Mary and Roanoke have been added.

After the state meet in Lynchburg there will be two road races which will challenge even the stoutest of runners. These races are the Lexington-Buena Vista road race (which, as everyone knows, is six miles), and the Blacksburg-Christiansburg road race, a nine mile affair for anyone interested in running nine miles.

Delts Cop I-M Title

The Delta Tau Delta, boasting a grand total of 195 points in the spring intramural tournaments has pulled away from second place Phi Kap and third place Phi Psi to capture the championship.

Although it still has the finals of the table tennis tournaments to play against ZBT, its strong performance in softball this season has assured Delt the first place spot.

Beating both Kappa Sig and SAE in softball tournament play Delt walked away with the championship leaving Kappa Sig in second place, SAE in third and DU in fourth.

Tie, win or lose in the table tennis playoffs, Delt still has clenched the Intramural Championships as neither the second or third place teams have entered contestants in either of the spring tournaments.

Tennis Team Downs U.Va. In Rain-Soaked Match

The Washington and Lee tennis team scored a major upset over the University of Virginia this Tuesday, winning by a score of 3-2. Because of rain the match was not finished although it counts as a victory, since more than half of the matches were played.

Captain John Baker ran into some unusually stiff competition as he dropped his number one singles, 6-0, 6-2. But freshman Randy Jones played beautifully in turning back his opponent in short order, 6-1, 6-4. Minus the services of the regular

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Write:

Mr. Barnes
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giving name, address, telephone number, age, and scholastic rating.

Varsity Club Elects Fauber President For '62-'63 Season

Roger Fauber, an SAE junior from Lynchburg, and a star of the Washington and Lee basketball team has been named the new president of the Varsity Club.

Other officers elected this week by the club were: Charlie Gummy as vice-president, Mike Harris as secretary and Mickey Walker as treasurer.

In addition to the election of new officers the club also selected 27 new members from eight different sports. They are: FOOTBALL—Chuck Lane, Tommy Keese, Lanny Butler, Bob Paine, Phil McCaleb, Joe Howson and Mickey Walker. SOCCER—Bob Pagano and Tom Clements. WRESTLING—Dave Montgomery and Jud Babeock. BASKETBALL—Dave Grogan and Bill Smith. SWIMMING—Charlie Hart and Mike Harris. TRACK—Skip Essex and Robin Kell. LACROSSE—Charlie Gummy, John

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NOTICE

Spring soccer practice will begin this Monday. Practice will run 4:00 to 5:00 through Friday. All interested should report to the fieldhouse Monday at 4:00 to draw equipment.

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Letters To The Editor . . .

(Continued from page 2)

close ties which the social life helps to create.

Returning to Mr. Walker's letter, his main argument seems to be that only the faculty can make an objective decision in regard to the fraternity situation. Perhaps an entirely objective decision is not what is needed here to restore the balance which once existed. This balance is what made W&L one of the finest small colleges in the country—not only as a place of learning from books but as a university where other important aspects of life may be learned as well.

As to Mr. Walker's apparent disillusionment at what he finds here at W&L, I certainly hope he has made the right objective in flying the coop. In his search for a "saner, more mature world," I wish him all good luck. I feel he is doing the right thing indeed.

Very sincerely,

CHARLES F. MORGAN

Student Blasts Conformity

Dear Sir:

It seems to me that the sense of values of the students at Washington and Lee are grossly out of proportion. I say this on the basis of the class elections of last Monday night and the aftermath of heated controversy.

On Monday night a certain freshman did something in the nominating convention which he sincerely felt would benefit his class, and through it the entire University. This action was widely denounced as being "detrimental to party solidarity," and for it this individual has since been the subject of severe criticism from his friends as well as various other individuals.

Political parties serve a purpose (although at Washington and Lee it is rather vague), but when their well-being becomes more important than that of the body of people

they seek to serve, they have defeated the only purpose for their existence. Should political parties at Washington and Lee be so powerful that an individual can be criticized for trying to benefit his university?

The Monday night elections also brought out another undesirable aspect of campus life here—that aspect is the lack of support for individualism on the part of fraternity members. Fraternity membership of necessity demands a certain loss of personal prerogatives, but for a Washington and Lee fraternity member to make a controversial statement he must be prepared to bring a storm of criticism not only upon himself, but also upon his fraternity as well.

In my opinion this is not inherent in the fraternity system itself, but it has resulted at Washington and Lee through the students failing to honor a fraternity member's opinion as his own. There are two possible solutions: (1) the student body must realize that some individuals will not surrender their complete identity to the fraternity and will on occasion speak their convictions; or (2) the fraternities must all set up censoring committees so that no such heresy as was evidenced on Monday night will happen in the future.

Sincerely,

JOHN ROSENBERG

Debaters On TV

The W&L Debate Team will appear tomorrow, Saturday May 12, at 12 p.m. on channel 10.

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FOR COMPACT CARS

Freshman State Reasons Behind Drop-Out Rate

(Continued from page 2)

"Freshman courses seem to be geared to the average first year student of 1920 who entered college with little preparation. That is simply not the case now. The freshman of today has had much better preparation and knows what he wants to do in life much more definitely than ever before. Required sciences and the like are a waste of time for many."

Math Course a Joke

One student took exception with the mathematics department. "The math course for freshmen is a joke. Who needs a lot of what they teach, especially at a liberal arts institution? Wouldn't a college algebra course make much more sense for a liberal arts major?"

Even the traditions of Washington and Lee took a beating. Said one student: "When traditions such as conventional dress are imposed by fines, they cease to be traditions and become merely prep school rules. No one at the University of Virginia goes to class without a coat and tie, either. There is one big difference, though—the University of Virginia never heard of an assimilation committee. I believe this shows a basic weakness in the Washington and Lee system."

As has been mentioned before, the above comments were made by freshmen with above 2.0 averages. Some took part in campus publications, various sports, Troubadours, and other organizations within the school. It is alarming and disheartening that people so competent of contributing to the University are leaving, for whatever reasons.

W&L Ambulance Unit Holds First Reunion

(Continued from page 1)

advance there. Private George Irwin, former W&L professor writes, about this action:

"One of the most terrifying things we have to put up with is the German aviators. One chased two of our ambulances down a road the other day shooting his machine gun at them, but did not register a hit."

Sergeant Forest Fletcher, W&L track coach after the war, describes one unpleasant spot, the village of Serches, the unit went through in late August.

The town was in a hollow and the Germans kept dropping in gas shells. Masks had to be worn all the time, which made driving difficult, especially at night.

Following the Allied advance, the unit pushed into Belgium in October.

The armistice was soon signed, but the unit's work did not end until April 1, 1919. From December to April it did civilian relief work and other clean-up operations.

Foreign Service Tests Open

(Continued from page 1)

Officer not promoted within a specified time that is dependent upon his grade is released from the Service.

Students desiring additional information or application blanks for the examination should see Dean Farrar in Washington Hall or Professor Colvin or Professor Gunn in Necessomb Hall.

Tennis Team Upsets Va., Jones, Mell, Hollman Win

(Continued from page 3)

number three man, Jim DeYoung, Jim Mell gave the netmen their second win in a three set duel, 3-6, 6-3, 6-2.

Freshman Lindsey Short was on his way to victory when the match was called. He had fought back from a 3-6 first set loss to win the second 6-1 and was tied 4-4 in the third. Number six man John Mills had a late come back, but it was not enough to stop his man from winning, 6-2, 7-5.

The Virginia win gave the Generals a 5-3 record. A match Monday with William and Mary of Norfolk on the home courts will wind up the season.

Interview With Albee

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As to the influence of his School of dramatists on other media, Albee was doubtful. He said the spirit of the Absurd as it is now is essentially and perhaps inevitably theatrical, and he expressed the belief that there was no indication of any sort of profound influence of the Absurd Theatre on movies or television.

Although he was most polite and receptive to his interviewers, Mr. Albee showed the greatest enthusiasm when he and Mr. Taylor from time to time got off into discussions of technical questions which were beyond the scope of those of us who were not intimately acquainted with the Absurd Theatre.

Varsity Club Initiates 27

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McDaniel, Dan Reed, Steve Stull and Randy Wootton. GOLF — Steve Henry. TENNIS — John Baker. BASEBALL — Brice Gamber, Lou Flanagan and Howard Martin.

The Ring-tum Phi

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