

The Ring-tum Phi

Friday

Friday, February 6, 1970

On Limiting Power

It is infrequent at best that a powerful body limits itself without the impetus of a serious threat from an outside source. The Student Body Executive Committee Monday demonstrated just that magnanimity, and we don't feel our own involvement in the issue invalidates our approval of their move.

Their vote was to end the EC's powers of review and appeal over the Publications Board on matters of policy while retaining some *de jure* financial control. It is not remarkable that such a separation between student government and the student press should find sympathy in some quarters, nor that the Publications Board should advocate it.

As a matter of fact, many properly found it more surprising to discover the extent of the EC's powers in this area. But at any rate, the EC might have rationalized from past experience to justify retaining their power, even though it has never in anybody's memory been exercised. We were, therefore, gratified at their decision to end the inherent danger and separate the institutions.

The EC's financial control over publications is in principle at least nearly as uncomfortable a situation as their powers of review. Yet for the present, we can arrive at no workable alternative, and until the threat manifests itself more clearly than it ever has, we consider the arrangement an acceptable one.

The issue, of course, is not settled. It requires a constitutional amendment, on which the student body will vote during the Big Four elections. But we are confident the matter will be deemed important enough to warrant the turnout necessary to pass the amendment and assure autonomy for the student press.

A New Department

During exams the University announced the division of the Department of Fine Arts into a Department of Arts and a Department of Music and Drama. It simultaneously revealed Prof. Junkin's retirement as department head, and the appointment of Prof. Doyon to head the Department of Arts and of Prof. Robert Stewart to direct the Department of Music and Drama.

On several counts, this division was long overdue. The former grouping was arbitrary and unwieldy, and as a result every aspect of those disciplines included suffered from neglect. Especially the music and drama portions of the department (at least until this year) were peripheral and attended usually only by students involved in the Glee Club or Troubadour Theatre, respectively.

The department's division offers the possibility to expand course offerings in these neglected areas and therefore to bring those subjects to the attention of a wider portion of the student body. But that is going to require increases in personnel which the administration needs to effect immediately if it is going to capitalize on the opportunity it has afforded itself.

Finally, A Fancy Dress

We hadn't planned to use this space this year to review dance weekends, but we do consider this year's Fancy Dress worthy of comment.

A lot can be said against the idea of Fancy Dress in general, but given its existence, we don't think it could have been much more entertaining, tasteful, or better organized than Marty Bass and the Dance Board made it. Especially when viewed in the light of last year's fiasco, the weekend's latest version can be called a crashing success.

Unfortunately we can't draw any cosmic conclusions from the simple fact that for once Fancy Dress was a well-run weekend, but we do hope it isn't the last one.

The Friday Ring-tum Phi

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ROBERT L. ENTZMINGER
Editor-in-Chief

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A Word From Dr. Colvin

To the Editor, the Friday Ring-tum Phi:

Since the Friday Edition was kind enough to endorse my abortive candidacy for the Senate seat, I think it only fair to use their edition to thank the many students who offered to help in any campaign I might wage. An astonishingly large number of students did come to me and did offer their services and I wish through this notice to thank them.

Simply, I thought it unfair to take enthusiastic supporters down a political road when I knew that the bridge would be out by April. But there may come a better day and enthusiasm will be needed then.

Those who have it, please keep it.
Professor Milton Colvin
Political Science

On Admissions

To the Editor, the Friday Ring-tum Phi:

There are some points in your editorial in a December issue entitled "Admissions Report" which I wish to discuss.

Unlike you, I hope that you have, in fact, "established an incorrect context or emphasis" concerning the report of the subcom-

W&L Class Reports to Senate

By MONTY COTTIER

Last Tuesday, February 3, the United States Senate Subcommittee on Disaster Relief of the Committee on Public Works heard a report from the W&L Class on Research Methods in Politics and Sociology concerning the flood last August in the Blue Ridge area and what reactions it caused. The report was presented by Homer Gamble, who worked along with David Field, Christopher Habers, George Hamlin, Charles Holt, Thomas Metcalf, Joseph Raine, and Robert Skinner under Dr. William Buchanan to prepare the survey.

The report itself deals with losses due to the flood only briefly, and also only insofar as these losses apply to the 98 persons interviewed as the sample. Of these 98, the greatest loss to any individual was forty thousand dollars, and the average loss was around six thousand dollars. The total loss for the area around Buena Vista, where the survey was made, was in the neighborhood of \$1.7 million.

Rather than spend a great deal of time and attention to the statistics of loss and repayment, however, the class devoted most of their study to the reactions of the people to the flood and the efforts of relief workers afterwards.

In this area, they asked the persons being interviewed who they thought gave the greatest amount of aid to the flood's survivors. Of those questioned, most in the lower half of the economic scale said that the Red Cross was the top source of repayment, while of those in the upper half, only about 50% felt this was true.

In the area of reactions to the flood, many people were cited as fearing that the flood would cause people to move away from the area, and prevent others from moving in. Reactions to the disaster were found to be related to a person's losses in it and his ties with the community. Thus, the report states, those who had little to lose and were new to the community were less likely to be deeply disturbed by the flood than those who had a great deal to lose and lost it, and who had strong communal ties.

However, the portion of the report which had the greatest impact was the concerning the distribution of aid and the reactions to this distribution. Although most had only grateful comments to offer, a significant number complained about the two agencies which helped the most: the Red Cross and the churches. Many felt that the Red Cross was selective in its distribution, but there was disagreement over the manner in which this selectivity operated. Some felt that the Red Cross was biased towards the poor while others felt that the organization favored the economically stable. As might be expected, in each case the supposedly favored class was the opposite of the speaker's own class.

The fact that the Red Cross was criticized more than any other institution is interesting, since it was this organization which contributed most. On further investigation, it was found that the greatest part of this criticism was from those who felt that most of the aid went to the poor. The report closes by suggesting that the insurance companies received little criticism because they let their clients know in advance what sort of aid to expect. There-

fore, if the aid organization would set out the specifics of their aid programs in the same manner, the report states, such criticisms might be avoided.

The Richmond Times-Dispatch, covering the hearing, stated that "a Washington and Lee student provided the subcommittee with its brightest moments of the two-day hearing." "Homer F. Gamble read a report prepared by him and seven other W&L students who surveyed por-

tion of the disaster area in Virginia, stating that among other things the survey concluded that the agencies that provided the most assistance to disaster victims were the most criticized." The Washington Post, on Wednesday, ran an article in which acting chairman Spong was quoted as stating that "the report could serve as a model for the Red Cross and other agencies in seeking better ways to communicate with disaster victims."

I say, with a firm belief that I am not alone, that every student who applies to W&L should be judged first on his academic ability,

which is best indicated in a vast majority of cases by his SAT scores and his high school record, and second to this by his economic background and the degree of so-called "heterogeneity" he would add to the student body. W&L is fortunate that it has sufficient funds to do this.

Undoubtedly some people will bark "What about those people whose SAT scores and high school records are not true reflections of their actual ability and potential?" Well, many of us may well have been in the same boat when we applied to colleges for admission as freshmen. Perhaps this is the reason why we are not all at Harvard, or Yale, or wherever we may have wanted to be. But then, as some blind idealists fail to realize, no system is perfect, and the Admissions system at W&L is no exception.

I agree with your statement in that I do "encourage a thorough consideration of the report when it is complete." I only hope that the Admissions Office will seriously consider the possible consequences if the proposed policy, as your editorial states it, is in fact adopted. W&L would certainly follow in the footsteps of so many other schools in successfully obtaining "heterogeneity," while at the same time lower-

ing its academic standards.
I hope that there is a better alternative.

Let me stress that it is not the idea of the subcommittee of which I disapprove; I am all for it, and intend to work for its goal. It is only unacceptable if it is truly what you stated it to be. I think you have jumped the gun on publicizing it and presented it in the wrong way, but all of us at W&L should be concerned about it, at least enough to find out what it truly is.
Pat Hinely

A Farewell to W&L

To the Editor, the Friday Ring-tum Phi:

Never in my life have I been happier or more content than here at Washington and Lee. Entering in the fall of 1966, I was filled with the usual fears and anxieties of an incoming freshman, but these fears quickly dissipated. Getting to know people and making friends seemed to come particularly easy here, and the loneliness and homesickness that had been frequenting me disappeared.

Perhaps, the only bad side of my life at W&L was not being here. In the summer of 1967 there was this accident, and I was out of school, flat on my back, for a year and a half. You can't believe how I looked forward to returning to W&L last semester, even if I was the oldest sophomore on campus.

Now, I'm married and just can't afford W&L any longer. Therefore, this semester will be my last as a member of the student body. This is the reason for my letter. Not addressed to any one person or group of persons, this letter is meant for the University as a whole, and its intent is to thank Washington and Lee for some of the happiest years of my life.

Willie Pearson

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THE RING-TUM PHI Sports

W&L Tops Tigers 76-72; Baltimore U. Next Foe

Washington and Lee upped its season mark to 12-3 with a tight 76-72 victory over Hampden-Sydney Wednesday night in the Tigers' den. Magic Mel Cartwright played still another outstanding game, scoring 23 points while grabbing 22 rebounds. Mike Neer, equally impressive fired in 22 points while stealing 16 rebounds. Neer, Ellie Gutshall,

Norwood Morrison and Mike Daniel also turned in fine defensive performances; Neer held the Tigers' hot-shooting Dave Trumbower to only 10 points.

Both teams were fairly cold. The Generals hit on 38% of their floor shots, and the Tigers could only manage an even colder 35%. But the telling was under the boards, as Washington and Lee outrebounded the enemy by a resounding 71-51 margin.

The victory was the Generals fifth in a row, a string which will be challenged Saturday by Baltimore University. The Marylanders feature the nation's second-leading small college scorer in Bunny Wilson, who owns a 32.6 average.

Following tomorrow night's home fare will be matches with Lynchburg and Old Dominion. Lynchburg, having a bad year at 3-15 will provide little opposition, but the Monarchs of Norfolk will be tough to beat. Old Dominion currently owns the best basketball record of Virginia colleges with a 14-1 mark. The Monarchs have won thirteen straight contests and are currently ranked 15th in the latest national small college poll.



Lacrosse To Have J-V Team

For the first time, there is going to be a junior varsity lacrosse team at Washington and Lee. "This will give a great many boys the chance to play lacrosse who would not have

had the chance otherwise," said lacrosse coach Dick Szlasa. "In previous years we have had kind of a make-shift junior varsity team, but it did not play according to any set schedule. This year, by offering this opportunity to learn to play the sport to those who might never have had the chance before, we are hoping for a large turnout. Coach Corrigan will be the coach of the team and games with the University of Virginia freshman team, Augusta Military Academy, St. Christopher's, and the Blue Ridge School have already been arranged.

For those interested in playing or learning to play the game on this level should attend the practice on Monday, February 23 at 4:00 p.m. For further information see Coach Szlasa at his office in Doremus Gym.

The Executive Committee

Washington and Lee University
Lock Drawer 899
Lexington, Virginia 24450
Editor, The Ring-tum Phi:
Voluntary limitation of its power by any group, especially a political one, is not such an ordinary occurrence that it can be routinely reported. I would like to say that the Executive Committee's action Monday night was more than personally pleasing—it was representative of a prevalent attitude among the members that the interests of the students have to be given priority over the interests of EC members.

The EC also deserves some sort of mention for generously allowing this matter and my presence before them for untold hours.

Sincerely,
Larry Honig, President
The Publications Board

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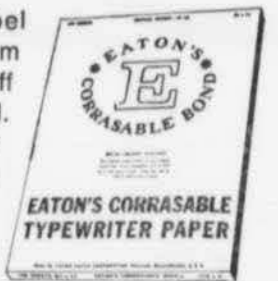
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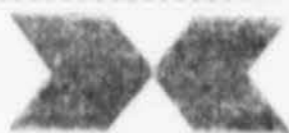
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