

The Ring-tum Phi

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Editorials

SOMETHING NEW FOR CHRISTMAS

Last night's snowfall and the recent cold spell have added the traditionally-correct Christmas card atmosphere to Lexington for the final days before vacation. The freshmen have at last seen the colonnade-under-snow scene: although the greeting cards picture it, the warm December weather had caused some wonder about its authenticity.

More has been added to the local Christmas spirit this season, however, by Washington and Lee in particular and Lexington in general, than by the "White Christmas" weather. Of course, there are always the IFC baskets, the Candlelight Service, and the children's parties given by some fraternities to comprise W. and L.'s contribution to Lexington's Christmas.

In addition, the town itself or civic groups within it annually sponsor the street lights, the Christmas parade, and religious music programs; there are benefits in the form of a talent show over WREL and a movie at the State, with proceeds going to help give underprivileged people a merrier holiday. VMI offers its greetings with a public performance by its Glee Club in the barracks quadrangle. More color is added in such happenings as a fraternity serenading Dean Gilliam with carols each year.

While all these activities are worthwhile, they have been conducted year after year in the same way by their various sponsors. Such habitual presentation inevitably leads to a sense of taking things for granted, by which they lose some of their meaning.

To restore some of this Christmas spirit, W. and L. groups have come up with ideas which kill two birds with one stone: besides augmenting the festive spirit they help repair deteriorating town-college relations by making the two groups feel closer.

We hope that the improved attitudes will still be with us when the season is gone, and that the precedent of cooperation will not be lost on this one year—or even on this one season each year.

Leading off this series of new projects was Washington and Lee participation in the town's Christmas parade several weeks ago. The 28-man precision drill team from the University's ROTC unit marched through Lexington with local organizations.

Next, a tree was erected by W. and L. for the benefit of both the University and the town. On the lawn in front of the President's home, it was put up by the school upon request of Mrs. Francis P. Gaines.

A second tree was given by the Junior Class and is prominently placed in the Court House yard on Main Street. This is the finest example of cooperation between students, University, merchants and town officials seen here in years. The tree itself was donated by O. M. McCrowell from his farm near Goshen, and hauled into Lexington by a town-owned truck. Junior Class President Ben Martin acted as coordinator of the different persons and organizations who helped. Juniors and town employees raised the tree on the lot between the Court House and the First National Bank,

after which juniors decorated it with their labor and with ornaments purchased by dimes collected throughout the Class. Martin said special thanks are due to Town Manager Jim Dunlap, Frank Nuckols of Rockbridge Radio and Electrical Service, T. F. James of Virginia Electric and Power Company, and Red Turner of Turner's Store.

All the new effort has not been in one direction. Sunday night a troupe from the Episcopal Church sang at Dean Leyburn's lawn on their rounds in this their first year of carolling.

With this Christmas issue the editors and staffs of the Ring-tum Phi wish everyone in the University and the town of Lexington the season's best. A special greeting goes out to all those who have added something new to Christmas here as well as to those who continue to give us the traditional element of the holiday.

WATCH IT!

Avoid the Christmas rush along the icy highways in the hurry to get home—and get there alive.

The Editor's Mirror

President Colgate Darden of the University of Virginia started a lively discussion throughout the state last week with his proposal that compulsory education in Virginia's public schools be abandoned after the eighth grade. Opinion is widely divided on his suggestion.

Mr. Darden points out correctly that a good many pupils who are forced to attend school until they are 16 years of age waste important years of their youth and also have a retarding effect upon the whole school system. He says that the teaching process must be geared to a lower level on their account, and also argues that some of the overcrowding in our schools could be relieved in this way.

No doubt the school system could be considerably improved by adopting this plan and some tax money could be saved, but we do not believe such a plan would be in the best interests of the children. The fault is not so much with the law as it is with our system of instruction.

The theory of public school education now calls for a separation of pupils according to their aptitudes. This separation should be made at the eighth grade level when it can usually be ascertained whether the pupil can progress in regular class work and perhaps toward a college education, or whether the pupil should be transferred to vocational work to learn a trade. If this system were universal, it would appear to answer Mr. Darden's objections completely.

But the difficulty lies in the fact that comparatively few of our high schools are equipped to give this variety of training to their pupils. The result is, as President Darden says, that a number of pupils, continued in regular courses of study for which they have no aptitude, waste their time and consume the taxpayers' money without visible results.

When vocational courses are not available to the inept student, he is a problem for all concerned. Superintendent of Schools Floyd Kay said, in answer to a question as to how such pupils are handled in Rockbridge schools, that they are passed along to some extent, but not automatically promoted every year. Failing students repeat some grades, but are not permitted to remain indefinitely with groups who would be much younger each year than they are. Mr. Kay said he thought President Darden made some good points in his proposal, but that he could not agree with the Darden plan.

There is, anyway, a provision in the law that takes care of aggravated cases, as Mr. Kay points out. Where after investigating a retarded case, there is agreement between the parents, teacher and school authorities, an exception can be made and the pupil can be dropped.

We do not believe the compulsory school law should be repealed. Most of the pupils who apparently are wasting their time will get something out of their school experience and at least should be exposed to an education. The real answer, we believe, is to develop the vocational side of public education to the point where something will be found that will fit the aptitudes of nearly every high school student.

—The Rockbridge County News

The Braintree

By Sacco
THE PARADOX

If a firecracker were being detonated under someone, that someone was usually the sweet, sincere, and benevolent fraternity brother who had a kind word for everyone—even his enemies, of which he usually had none. His innocence was almost saintly in its manifestation, and the customary basis of most of the fraternity humor. The brothers were not willing to accept a living saint. But deride him as they would, his already-conformed fraternity brothers could not change his simplicity. They could not bend his naivete into the superficial worldliness which finds humor in stupidity and good in very little.

"They are like unto children sitting in the market place, calling one to another, and saying, We have piped unto you, and ye have not danced. We have mourned to you, and ye have not wept."

If he attempted to become "one of the boys," his lack of understanding our ways showed itself. He could not think, do, or understand some of the clever practices that are considered by us as the essence of wit. He was a social flop. A few boys admired his virtue, but the only way in which they showed this admiration was to tolerate him.

"They understood not that he too spoke to them with the voice of the Father."

They realized that if all were like him, the world would probably be a better place in which to live. Perhaps they resented this fact—and, in so doing, resented the person who brought this fact to them. They did not hate him—it was their own selves, as reflected through him, that they hated. It was as if they felt guilty at not obeying the "Golden Rule" as he obeyed it. And in order to compensate for their own guilt, they joined their brothers in pharisaical derision.

"Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch."

In fact, they didn't understand him. They didn't let themselves understand. Here was a person reflecting the truth and simplicity which they had always been taught was the beauty of life. Here was their religion being lived in their presence. And they didn't understand it.

"Why do ye not understand my speech? Even because ye cannot hear my word."

They will continue to administer hot foots and various other contrivances against this fellow designed for their amusement.

(Continued on page four)

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It was a cold, crisp Sunday in a small Virginia college town. It was the first Sunday after the first snow. In fact, most of the snow was still on the streets, left there where it had fallen due to a decided lack of snow plows. If the temperature remained where it was, somewhere below freezing, the snow and ice would probably stay right where it was until the Spring thaw.

Sunday dinners had just been completed in the college's fraternity houses. (The usual turkey that had been sold for chicken.)

The local theatre owner had just opened the portals of his two establishments. (One a 55c admission for a matinee, the other only 40c, but you have to bring your own gas mask.)

Students without the necessary fee for the show were left in their respective houses to read what was left of the Sunday paper. They put a few records on the victrola and were waiting, naturally, until the library opened. Sacco was dreaming up some strange thing to put in the school paper.

Suddenly the fire siren sounded at the volunteer fire station. This would certainly be better than the Sunday papers. In a very short time the engines of the three trucks roared to life, after a little coaxing from the drivers. After all it was a cold day.

One truck roared out of the station, made the turn at the corner, and headed out Route 60 past the Post Office. The other truck went straight and did not make the turn. The third truck, a Dodge Brothers, made before it joined the Chrysler Corporation, was left at the post.

It didn't take long before the drivers figured something was wrong. So, the first truck turned around and arrived at the scene of the blaze. The second truck was seen rounding the corner by the Sig Machi house, and it, too, got to the fire. The third truck which incidentally went the right way, grabbed the show money.

The chief got off the first truck and walked to the house. He was

greeted by members of an old Lexington family who said, "I'm sorry I had to call you all out. It was only a bird's nest in the chimney."

Well, anyway, it was better than reading the paper.

Pretty soon the show team returned. Usual comment, "Stinks."

Down on the corner of Lee and Washington, one of the members walked over to his hot plate, filled a pan with a repulsive-looking concoction and started to heat it. Answer to the question: "Hot buttered rum."

Anyhow, as Gary Cooper (no relation to Joel) would say, "Yup." Winter has arrived in Lexington.

Since we have been receiving threatening letters from a person who signs them only, H. L., we are afraid to print anything about Hunter Lane.

Cy Twombly, Jr. Has Work In New York Art Exhibit

Cy Twombly, Jr., is one of two young artists whose works form the third annual exhibit of new talent at Koontz Gallery in New York City. The exhibit opened on December 4 will continue through December 22.

Son of W. and L.'s director of physical education, Twombly attended high school in Lexington and was enrolled at W. and L. for one year. He is now at Black Mountain College, N. C. He has studied at the Boston Museum School, The Art Students League, New York, where he held a scholarship and \$100 fellowship from the Virginia Museum, Richmond, and Darlington School, Rome, Ga.

Twombly had an exhibit shown at the Seven Stairs Gallery in Chicago in November of this year. New York critics have received the present show favorably.

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Blue Five Falls Before Davidson and Furman

Univ. of Maryland Here Wednesday For S. C. Encounter

Washington and Lee's Generals dropped two Southern Conference battles over the weekend as they fell before Davidson Friday night, by a 69-64 score and, Saturday night, before the five from Furman College by a 65-63 count. Both games were played on the winners' court.

Jay Handlan led the W. and L. attack against Davidson as he hit for seven field-goals and nine for thirteen free-throws for a game total of twenty-three points. Dave Hedge and Jim Rich tied for second place in the scoring race with four field-goals and one free-throw apiece for a total of nine points. Fitzgerald, guard, and Dudley, center, were high scorers for the Wildcats as both whipped in sixteen points.

Dave Hedge was the big gun against Furman, the team which a week before had defeated the powerful Blue Devils of Duke, as he scored a total of twenty points on ten field-goals. Jim Rich took second place honors with a fifteen point total on five field-goals and five for seven at the free-throw line. Charlie Topp hit for fourteen points on six field-goals and two for two free-throw attempts. Selvy of the Hurricanes was top scorer for the evening with twenty-four points.

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The Big Blue will meet the University of Maryland tomorrow night in a single game to be played at the VMI Fieldhouse. The Terps handed the Generals a 71-51 defeat last December 5. In holiday play the Big Blue will take part in the Marshall College Tournament in Huntington, West Virginia, meeting the probable tourney favorite, Miami of Ohio, in the opening game.

Marshall College will meet Akron in the second game and the winners and losers will play in the final round to decide the champion and runners-up along with the holders of third and fourth places. Miami has lost only one game so far this season.

On December 29 the Generals will travel to Toledo, Ohio, to meet the University of Toledo, the only team to defeat Miami of Ohio this season. Toledo lost its opening game but has been undefeated since then.

The Big Blue will tangle with the powerful Bradley University on New Year's Day in a contest to be played in Peoria, Illinois, before returning to school. The first post-holiday game will be with Roanoke College in Salem, Virginia, on January 5.

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Generals Drop Catholic University to Remain Undefeated in Swimming

Washington and Lee's tankmen took first place in every event and second in all but three as they crushed a weak Catholic University team, 67-17. Sparked by an outstanding group of freshmen the Generals made it two in a row over swimming competition. Last week they edged a stubborn Davis and Elkins aggregate, 41-34.

The best performance of the day was turned in by freshman Maner Hite who easily outdistanced his rivals in touring the 200-yard backstroke in 2:26.5. He also was an important factor in the Generals' victory in the 300-yard medley relay. In the diving, football star Ray Leister, who was out of action against Davis and Elkins a week ago, completely outclassed the opposition by gaining the distinctive sum of 101.2 points, 65 more than second place Gardner of W. and L. The Big Blue gained a "one-two" in the 220-yard free style with Skip Reid first and Patrick, who also won the 440, second. Smith took the honors in the 50-yard dash, while Shand was victorious in the 100. DeVolpi eased his way to triumph in the breast stroke, and in the only other individual performance of the afternoon, Kenney stroked to finish first in the 150-yard individual medley.

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Wrestlers Beat Duke by 17-9

The varsity wrestling squad, under the reins of Coach Russ Crane, opened its season yesterday at Durham, N. C. with a 17-9 win over the Duke Blue Devils.

The Generals took five of the eight matches although no pins were recorded for either team. Returning to form were last year's Howie Davis, Paul Weill, and Morgan Lear.

Biggest margin of victory was scored by Chuck Rauh, who won the heavyweight match by an 8-2 difference.

Fred Staunton was the fifth Washington and Lee winner, as he defeated Krauter in the 157-pound class.

General losses came in the 137, 147, and 167-pound classes. Freshman Watson Bowes, in varsity competition for the first time, lost to Duke's Dieffenbach.

Charley Sipple and Bob Maccubbin, both of whom saw action last year lost their respective matches by close scores.

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GENERALIZING

By HUGH GLICKSTEIN

On this nite before Xmas,
And a no-tennis day,
Time to put out a paper—
But nothing to say
The players are snug in their 8 by 6 beds,
While visions of scholarships bound in their heads
The laymen are playing their annual sports,
At Doc's (no more tap room) and various spots (fine rhyme).
So I'll say adieu; a quaint message to all,
As a freshman would say, it's been a real ball.
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2-12 in blue and white

Lonely GI Finds Christmas Cheer By Giving Korean Kids 'C' Rations

(Continued from page one)

He knew he was putting himself into a bad mood but there wasn't anything else to occupy his mind. The phrase, "not even a Christmas card," kept inserting itself into his thoughts. And then the soldier had an idea. He picked up a can of his "C" rations and at the next stop tossed it to one of the little children riding on the roofs.

The little Korean appeared happier and the soldier felt better. So at the next stop he gathered all of his own "C" rations and gave them away. This was getting to be fun. At the third stop he collected his buddies' "C" rations and tossed them to the kids. They looked so pathetic, and were so grateful for the smallest crumb—and the soldier had almost forgotten, "not even a Christmas card."

When the train stopped, the door to the freight car was surrounded by pleading, shivering, little children. The soldier had no more food to give them. Why didn't the Koreans take care of their own kids? The soldier had another idea. If the Koreans wouldn't—he would.

He searched his pockets and gathered all the wonn (Korean money) he could find. He bought the nuts and eggs and rice which the vendors sold, and gave the food to the children. When his money ran out he spent all his buddies' money. Everybody seemed to be having a good time—even the young soldier who was spending Christmas 10,000 miles from home.

At the last stop before Taegu the soldier gave the last of his food away. As he finished an old man approached him. He was intelli-

gent-looking with deep sage eyes and a flowing beard. Like all the rest of the refugees he had his worldly belongings on his back. The old man spoke to the soldier in broken English.

"My family leaves the train here. We wish to thank you for what you have done. We can give you no money, we have little of anything—but please take this." The aged one handed the soldier an envelope and then disappeared in the crowd.

The train started on the last leg of its journey. The soldier opened the envelope. Inside were 12 — handpainted — Christmas cards.

The Paradox

(Continued from page two)

And they will continue to hope for the fulfillment of a religious panacea.

They will persecute a manifestation of their hopes.

"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth."

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"The Day the Earth Stood Still"

Foreign Students View Christmas in America

(Continued from page one)

first year were your decorations, trees, and the mad rush of shopping." He also says he was used to Christmas as a two day family holiday, while in America the festivities go on for almost a month.

Jasa believes the American Christmas is made more poetic and enjoyable by stressing not only the religious significance of Christ's birth but the secular outlook as well—exchange of gifts, the Christmas dinner, and so on.

Another big difference, according to Drabek, is our celebration of Christmas day rather than just Christmas eve, including the traditional midnight services.

In America everyone has seen Santa Claus and pictures immediately the fat, jolly old man, while in Czechoslovakia the physi-

cal appearance of Santa Claus is one of the big mysteries of the season for all children.

Drabek says that while America has two holidays a week apart, Christmas and New Year's Day, Czechoslovakia has three in a row. December 24 is the Day of Generosity, the 25th is Christmas day, and the following day is the Holiday of St. Stevens.

Jasa's first Christmas in America was filled with a desire to be home, which is natural since Christmas here was so sudden and remote from the way he had last celebrated the season. "However," added Drabek, "the hospitality of the American people more than made up for this wish to be home."

PEP Elects Lichtenstein

Steve Lichtenstein was chosen president for another term in the Phi Epsilon Pi elections last week.

Jay Grossman, a junior from Waynesboro, Va., was elected to the position of vice-president and Phil Kocen, a sophomore from Richmond, Va., was elected corresponding secretary Ronald Deitch, a Washington, D.C. soph-

omore, will serve as recording secretary, while Buddy Ginsberg, a Kansas City, Mo. sophomore will assume his duties as Marshall.

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