

The Ring-tum Phi

Washington and Lee Semi-Weekly Newspaper

Volume LIII

LEXINGTON, VIRGINIA, MARCH 20, 1953

Number 42

Centennial Committee Plans Thomas N. Page Memorial

An alumnus of Washington and Lee and one of the nation's greatest story tellers—Thomas Nelson Page—will be honored throughout the South this year on the 100th anniversary of his birth.

As one of the South's best known authors, Page wrote about the ante-bellum days and of the reconstruction ordeals in an effort to heal the breach between the North and the South.

He attended Washington College (now Washington and Lee) from 1868 to 1871 during the presidency of General Robert E. Lee.

In *The Heart of the South Beats at Lexington*, he pays tribute to General Lee, as he recalls the small town of Lexington. He says:

"Ah! ride on alone, old man, with duty at thy bridle-bit; behind thee is the glory of thy military career; before thee is the transcendent fame of thy future. Thou shalt abide there henceforth; there shall thy ashes repose; but thou shalt make of that little town a shrine to which pilgrims shall turn with softened eyes so long as men admire virtue and the heart aspires to the ideal of duty."

A centennial committee, headed by Gov. John Battle as honorary chairman, has been organized to commemorate the author's birth. W&L president Francis P. Gaines and Collgate Darden, president of the University of Virginia, will serve as executive vice-chairmen of the committee.

ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS of the centennial program will be a banquet at the Commonwealth Club in Richmond on April 23, the date of Page's birth. Dr. Gaines will be the principal speaker.

W&L will sponsor a number of commemorative activities throughout the year. A library exhibit of Page's books will be included in the centennial program in addition to articles in literary and historical reviews.

Other centennial events include the opening of Page's birthplace, "Oakwood" in Hanover County, to the public during Virginia Garden Week, April 25 to May 2.

New commemorative jackets for Page's books still in print will be issued by Charles Scribner's Sons of New York, Page's publisher for many years. *The Two Little Confederates*, originally published in 1888, still sells fairly well throughout the country, and is perhaps Page's most popular work.

Page spent a year on the family farm, "Oakland," after he gradu-

Bank, Department Store Representatives Will Visit W&L Monday, Thursday

Representatives from State Bank and Trust Co. and Miller and Rhodes will be at W&L Monday, Mar. 23, and Thursday, Mar. 26, respectively. These representatives will interview seniors applying for jobs.

Last week 51 W&L men were interviewed by Dan River Mills, Crown Central Petroleum Co., Atlantic Refining Co., and Proctor and Gamble. There were also two group meetings held which gave company representatives a chance to talk to all applicants.

Jim Farrar, director of placement, said that even if men had to go directly in the service from school, they would have a "foot in the door" with a company that they had pleased.

There have been 19 companies represented here this year and approximately 225 individual interviews.

ated from Washington College. He then entered law school at the University of Virginia, and later practiced law in Richmond.

His first story, "Marse Chan," appeared in *Century Magazine* in 1884. This was followed by other stories in *Harper's Magazine* and the *New Scribner's Magazine*. His first book, *In Ole Virginia*, was published by Scribner's in 1887.

"*The Little Confederates*," one of the most beloved and widely read of all Page's works, first appeared in serial form in *St. Nicholas Magazine*. This was followed by "*Red Rock, A Novel of the Reconstruction*," his well-known "*R. E. Lee, Man and Soldier*," and other novels, stories and essays of the South.

In 1913 President Wilson named Page, then 50, as ambassador to Italy, where he remained until after the war.

He died at "Oakland," his ancestral home and the scene of many of his stories, on November 1, 1922. During the course of his active life, honorary degrees were bestowed upon him by Harvard, Yale, and William and Mary.

DR. MARVIN B. PERRY, JR., associate professor of English, is directing the work of the Page Centennial Committee. He is being assisted by Mrs. Edwin M. Gaines of Charlottesville, the committee's executive secretary.

State of the University

University Plays Large Role in Fraternity Development

By HENRY A. TURNER

(Editor's Note: This is the third in a series of articles on "The State of the University." Today, the writer traces the early beginnings of the fraternity system at Washington and Lee. The final portion of this article will be published Tuesday.)

Because of its rather singular nature the fraternity system at W&L is probably a more important part of the State of the University than it is at most other universities. In addition, the fraternities here are now at their all-time zenith as far as percentage of men enrolled in the chapter goes.

Last year 81 percent of the Student Body belonged to the 17 fraternities—the highest point ever reached. With 93 per cent of incoming freshmen pledging fraternities this year, the figure is undoubtedly even higher now.

The importance of these facts can be seen at the 17 fraternity houses, and a large percentage live in the houses. In comparison with most other universities W&L's percentage of fraternity men is very high and the fact that fraternities are allowed to own houses in which most members eat and many room also makes the system different from that on many campuses. It does not take too much analysis to realize that the fraternity system is built into the heart and core of W&L as we know it today.

The reasons for this system are largely historical and go far back into the history of the University. The first fraternity came here in the 1850's when the fraternity movement was in full growth all across the nation. Several others were also instituted before the Civil War but the whole movement was behind the scenes, with University officials frowning on the new organizations.

President's Committee of Student Advisors to Convene Thursday For Commons-Dorm Discussion

Desirability of a Freshman Commons and an Upper-class Dormitory will be discussed at a meeting of the Student Advisory Board Thursday night in the Browsing Room of McCormick Library.

The 27-member committee meets periodically with Dr. Francis P. Gaines to study university problems. Thursday's meeting will be the first called this semester.

While the discussion concerning the Commons and the Dormitory is scheduled to occupy a major part of the meeting's agenda, Dr. Gaines said that the floor would be open for study of any other campus problems which student members of the committee wish to present.

The purpose of the committee, as Dr. Gaines

stated at the beginning of the year, is "to discover and if possible correct any conditions that operate against our best purposes, or to suggest new programs in which we may have a happier life here together and do our work more successfully."

THE COMMITTEE is composed of Student Body officers, editors of campus publications, organization presidents, and the presidents of the 17 fraternities and the Campus Club.

After a lapse of three years, the group was revived last October by Dr. Gaines.

Dr. Gaines expressed a hope that the students will feel free to talk in the committee meetings and that they will gather any other student opinion they consider significant for the discussions.

'Madwoman' Is 'Feast for Intelligentsia'

By LEONARD CRIMINALE

Campus playgoers will be delighted with the return of Jean Giraudoux to the Troubadour Theater. Those who witnessed the production of his "Amphytrion 38" a few seasons ago will welcome the happy allegory of *The Madwoman of Chaillet*, which will be presented for the final times tonight and tomorrow night at 8:15.

It should be said at once that the play is by way of a feast for the intelligentsia. It is distinctly not everyone's play, in the sense that the pleasant antics of the

two previous productions of the season were everyone's plays. It is good to find the Troubadours have not set a pattern, but, on the contrary, are offering pleasantries and profundity combined.

The death in 1945 of Jean Giraudoux—distinguished novelist, playwright, and politician—was a distinct loss to the stage. This play is the work of his last year, written amid the disillusionment of World War II Paris. He saw the world about him fast becoming a moral as well as a physical ruin, and diagnosed the ideology of profit as the chief

cause of the growing rottenness. The theme is no new one; indeed, the lesser themes of the play as well are commonplace; that the poor and simple are downtrodden, that the fruits of the earth are far from free, that love is the one decent motive for living. But in Giraudoux's hands these bromides are skillfully compounded and modified. In almost the same breath he is serious and gay, sympathetic and mordant, realist and fantasist, possessed of convictions and deeply sceptical.

(Continued on page two)

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After the War, with General Lee as president, the then Washington College "boomed" with enrollment soaring over the 400 figure. The fraternities experienced a similar boom with many new ones coming to the College and the old ones thriving. Gradually the fraternities came to receive the tacit recognition of the officials and in the 1870's began to rent rooms in town where meetings were held and the brothers could assemble.

AT THIS TIME, according to all available information, the fraternities were very small—probably not average over eight members. During the 1870's and 1880's as a result of the depression and dip in enrollment the fraternities came upon hard times with many dropping out and all becoming smaller, probably averaging about four or five members.

The first really definite information about fraternities at W&L dates from the 1890's. At that time there were 13 Greek-letter houses,

and the chapters had begun to rent houses in town where the members could board and also room. The average size of the fraternities in 1899 was eight members, and the fraternity men made up 53 per cent of the Student Body.

During the period from 1900 to 1910 the number of houses grew to 15 with an average membership of 14 men, but only 37 percent of the Student Body belonged to the houses.

After World War I the enrollment of the University was greatly increased as was the number of fraternities. In 1920 there were eighteen chapters on the campus with the average membership being 22 men. Fraternity member percentage of the Student Body had risen to 55 per cent.

THE GREAT GROWTH of fraternities came during the 1920's and may be at least partially traced to the University's new financial policy regarding fraternities. Since

1920 the University has loaned money to fraternities for the purchase of fraternity houses. The policy has allowed fraternities to borrow up to 60 per cent of the purchase price of the buildings on 30-year amortization plans.

Around \$200,000 of Washington and Lee's endowment is at present on loan to fraternities. Because of interruptions of various sorts none of the loans has as yet been liquidated, and 14 of the present houses have mortgages held by the University, one has a mortgage held by an outside agency, and two others rent their houses.

Under the benefits of this program, the houses on Red Square and several other houses were built, and many others were bought and renovated during the 1920's. By 1930 there were 20 houses with an average membership of 33 and 73 per cent of the Student Body belonged to fraternities.

It is during this period when the University encouraged the growth of fraternities and the construction of expensive houses that the system became really entrenched at W&L. After this time the fraternity memberships tended to be high, and the percentage of men in fraternities tended to be much greater than before the growth of the houses.

THUS IT IS that one reason for the peculiar (by standards of many other schools) fraternity system at Washington and Lee lies in the financial complication added by the purchase of expensive houses with University aid. As a result of this fraternities often find it necessary to expand their chapters far beyond the size of the original chapters as conceived by the founders of the Greek-letter societies.

(Tuesday: Recent Trends)

News Briefs

IR CLUB WILL HEAR TALK ON IRAN...

Mrs. Helen Clarke Young of the Near East Society will speak in Washington Chapel at 7:30 Monday before the International Relations Club. The subject of her address will be "Tension and Strategy in Iran."

Mrs. Young has spent a number of years in Iran as a teacher, and her husband is a prominent authority on the Persian language.

CALYX PAYMENTS URGED...

All students who have not paid for their 1952 Calyx should do so within the next week. If

this is not done, the IOU's will be turned over to the Cold Check Committee. Payment may be made to Sam Rayder at the Rockbridge National Bank.

DR. MORTON SCORES NOTE-TAKING...

Dr. W. W. Morton, who teaches religion and philosophy here at W&L, told his Religion 104 class Wednesday that he doesn't go for the old-fashioned teaching method of lecturing and note-taking.

He says he'd rather prepare notes himself and pass them out—which he does in great detail and large amounts.

Editorial

Housing: The Beginning of A Solution

When the President's Student Advisory Committee convenes next Thursday with Dr. Gaines to discuss the advisability and the desirability of a Freshman Commons and an Upper-class Dormitory, some of the paramount policies of the University will come under scrutiny by this group. In analyzing the proposals the Committee will necessarily touch upon many aspects of student life, not the least important of which will be the role of fraternities here.

In this connection the work of Mr. Henry A. Turner, a feature writer for *The Ring-tum Phi*, entitled "The State of the University" and particularly his article in the issue today which deals with fraternities here may be of some edification for those who desire to study the role in the student's life which social fraternities play. Certainly over the years the Greek-letter houses have played a fundamental role, and it will be interesting to examine whatever account of their background, development, and role which Dr. J. Ollinger Crenshaw gives in his forthcoming history of the University.

Several questions immediately arise: What role do the houses play today in the life of the student? What effect do they have on his life here? What effect do they have on University and Student Body activities? To what extent has their influence increased or decreased over the years? What factors have contributed to the answers to these questions?

In seeking to evaluate social fraternities here, some very basic questions of policy arise. During the past three decades the measure which the University itself has played in the growth and development of fraternities is significant. By investing money in the construction and remodeling of the Greek houses, on the theory that such houses serve as and provide dormitory and housing facilities for a large number of students here, necessarily the construction of other dormitory facilities has been held to a minimum. In fact, there have been no other dormitory facilities beyond the addition to the Freshman Dormitories during the late war.

May it not reasonably be deduced from these considerations that the importance of the social fraternity has expanded since the construction and remodeling of the houses, a growth which has manifested itself in the very high percentage of students

which each year affiliate with one or another of the houses? And may it not reasonably be concluded that since these facilities are the prime housing units for the University the decrease over the years in the number of non-fraternity students is a direct reflection of these policies?

Even more interesting is the role which these University policies have played in respect to the development and growth of the various houses. As the character of the Student Body has changed (along with the character of student groups everywhere) the tendency for students to affiliate with fraternities has increased. At Washington and Lee has not this natural tendency been accelerated by the very type of dormitory arrangements which are provided?

As a result of such tendencies the foregone conclusion that the social groups tend to grow very large and all-powerful in contrast to the position which they occupied on the campus prior to the evolution of these financial policies is almost self-evident.

The desirability of very large and all-powerful social fraternities is the inevitable question. The effect of the proposed Freshman Commons and Upper-class Dormitory on social fraternities here poses the immediate problem.

The *Ring-tum Phi* submits that at this time an ameliorating influence on the grip of the social fraternities here would produce many desirable results for the University as a whole, for Student Body life here, and for the benefit of the social-fraternity system as an entirety. Such an ameliorating influence could be effected by the proposed Commons and Dormitory which would both tend to lower the proportion of fraternity men on the campus and the memberships in the various Greek houses. We submit that the return of smaller fraternity memberships, after the initial readjustments were made, would not seriously harm the economies of the houses, since fraternities on many campuses maintain houses and tables with the smaller memberships that such a program on this campus would entail.

The effect of fraternity life on the University is one of the major problems before Washington and Lee. It will be interesting to observe developments toward its solution.

The Hammer and Spade:

Your Spring House Party Can Be Original; Helpful Hints for Hosts

By Edmonds and Hoogenboom

Temperance Hymn
We're coming, we're coming, our brave little band.
On the right side of temp'rance we now take our stand.
We don't use tobacco, and we also think
That them what does use it is quite sure to drink.

—L. J. (alias A. H.).

This is a week for sweet nothings!

Since this is the spring house party season, some people might need original ideas for themes. Herewith a list compiled under delirium tremens.

FIRST (and this is Peachy-Keen) decorate your house like a fraternity house. (This is an ultra modern idea. All the girls could come dressed as sweet little white-haired house-mothers.

SECOND: the Hallowe'en motif—the chief feature is bobbing for apples in a tub of beano. In accordance with the theme of witches and hags, it would be advisable to get dates from Southern Sem. This would alleviate the costume problem.

THIRD a Friends of the Library Party: You and dates can spend the evening whooping it up in the Locked Stacks.

FOURTH: (and this has never been used before) we suggest an Old Southern Plantation Ball Party. It would be best to have this party in the Gym—if the Gym is available.

AND FINALLY, a Political Party. **CAMPUS COMMENT**

WE HIGHLY recommend "The Madwoman of Buena Vista" to all veteran theater-goers. Understand it's pretty effective, especially when the sets are standing.

(The above does not necessarily express our opinion.)

THE OTHER day we were walking down Main St. when a member of the Washington Literary Society approached us from out a dark alley and said: "Pssst—feelthy pictures?" Seems they're on an all-out fund-raising campaign.

RECENT INTERESTING Forensic Topics:

"Resolved, the Southern Collegian is a humor magazine."

"Resolved, Lexington is a good place to spend your Spring vacation."

"Resolved, that the Forensic Union be dissolved." (After this, there were no more debates.)

SOME OF YOU older men who remember Dr. Warren may have wondered what happen to him: well, remember the story about the crevasse?

Railroad Article Printed

An article on "The Development of the 'Valley Line' of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad" by J. Randolph Kean, a senior from Richmond, was printed this week in the latest edition of The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography.

Auto Repair

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BLUERIDGE MOTORS

Criminale Reviews Troubs 'Madwoman of Chaillot'

(Continued from page one)

The whole is accompanied by a surprising and incessant—and typically French—play of mind. For this play of mind the spectator should sit on the edge of his seat and not lose a word. Here the wit of *Candide* and the whimsy of *Alice in Wonderland* combined. Add no small amount of poetry and the result is lovely to behold and to hear.

THE PLOT REDUCES itself to something as simple as a mad noblewoman's decision to rid the world of its exploiters—the entrepreneurs of capital and the ubiquitous prospectors. They are revealed in all their iniquity, whereupon the mad Countess, having learned from the King of the Underworld the secret of an endless subterranean passage, sends down the parasites never again to emerge. Evil disappears and the Golden Age returns.

Carefully examined, the parable is too simple. We cannot agree that all the world's evil is embodied in the souls of the members of a small class, or that the Golden Age will return of itself if they are sent down into the sewer. Outdated, too, is the concept of the noblewoman, implicitly trusted by her strange court of flower girls, ragpickers, street singers, and waitresses, leading them all to happiness. Giraudoux is narrow in his presentation of the problem and wholly unsatisfactory in his solution.

Nonetheless, Giraudoux leaves his thesis clothed in heroism of the highest order. And accepting his thesis is a small price to

pay for the sparkle of the dialogue, the light-hearted style, and the sweet melancholy of this Paris poem. Giraudoux joins an ancient philosopher in declaring that sanity, after all, may well be the possession of the insane rather than the sane. It is surely the Countess Aurelia, Madwoman of Chaillot, and her no less daffy cronies from three other Parisian "quarters" who here speak reason. The hilarious scene of the Countess's tea party in her basement is worth the entire evening.

The union of the Troubadours with the Footlighters of Southern Seminary for this occasion was a happy thought. The director of the latter organization, June E. Deakins, has given sensitive staging to a difficult work. If the play, so much a poem, does not always dance in presentation, the fault lies not infrequently in the elusive quality of the work itself and not in the hard work of the players. Peggy Clapp shows earnest and rewarding study in the role of the Madwoman; her colleagues, Mme. Constance, Mlle. Gabrielle, and Mme. Josephine, played respectively by Suzanne Nagley, Elaine Ennis, and Barbara Pierucci, are highly able supports. Also among the ladies, Judy Robinson is an attractive and soulful Irma. On the Washington and Lee side, Beverley Stephenson, David Collins, William Criminale, and Don Peterson are most effective as the capitalists, descending finally into the pit with true zest. Joe Scher moves into a new and happy element as the Ragpicker. The Sewer Man of Fred Easter is a high point. A host of lesser characters have

things well in hand. The number of persons alone make this a formidable undertaking.

THE SUMPTUOUS QUALITY of the evening lies in the settings and costuming uniformly, excellent. The former is a great credit to the artistry of our own Carlson Thomas; the two scenes, especially the Cafe Chez Francis, offer distinct eye appeal. The directors at both schools have joined to make the Henry Street excursion into the world of fancy highly rewarding.

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The Ring-tum Phi

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Generals Meet Buckeyes in Practice Game Tomorrow

Prospects are looming bright for a winning season from the 1953 edition of the General's diamond squad.

Baseball fans will be able to get their first glimpse of the season ahead when the Generals play a practice game with Ohio State tomorrow afternoon.

The Buckeyes from Ohio are on a spring vacation trip southward, and the game, starting at 3, should be an interesting one. Both coaches will probably clear their benches in an effort to test their players under action.

With ten returning lettermen, the pitching and outfield departments appear to be solidly filled. Lettermen Joe Rowe, Paul Weinstein, and Randy Broyles will probably roam outfield pastures for the team, with Dick Kops (shifted from catcher), George Mitchell, Dave Wouters, Paul Maslansky, George Hendrix, Dave Foster, and freshmen Charlie Dawson, John Cobb, and Rube Chisholm fighting for outfield positions behind them.

The pitching staff is Coach Bill McCann's strong point, with four lettermen returning. Back from last year are Tyson Janney, Glen Gamble, Steve Schlossman, and Buddy Dey, who played two years ago. Fighting for positions behind them are Ed Nulton, Brian Shanley, Bob Cullers, Ellis Drew, Rud Abbott, Eddie Cooper and Bob Miller.

Warren Moody has been shifted from the outfield to behind the plate, with Mike Dubin and Tom Salisbury behind him.

IN THE INFIELD, 11 men are fighting for the four positions. Veteran Ben Walden has the edge at first base, while Dave Linn, Pete De Beer, John Brabau, and Jack Hare are right behind him. Jack Haver will be at second base, re-inforced by Tinky Williams. John Freeman and Lowell Hamric have the edge at short and third, respectively, with Joe Lindsey and Tom Baker behind them.

W. and L. Stickmen Open Season Saturday Against Maryland

Washington and Lee's spring sports season will officially be opened tomorrow as the W&L lacrosse team goes against the University of Maryland at College Park.

The Terps have been picked as the number one team in the Southern Conference this year by lacrosse scribes, while W&L has been named third in the conference by the pre-season pollers.

Nine returning lettermen bolster the General line-up as they take on the Terps. They are captained by Ross Wagner, a senior from Baltimore, Md., and coached by Ken Spence, Sr.

This game will probably seem like homecoming to the Generals because 18 of the players are from Maryland, and 14 are from Baltimore, the lacrosse center.

First home game for the W&L stickmen will be Wednesday against Swathmore College. The complete schedule:

Schedule

Mar. 21 Maryland
Mar. 26 Swathmore (h)
April 11	.. Rich Lacrosse Club (h)
April 18 Baltimore (h)
April 25 Western Maryland
May 2 Virginia
May 7 Duke
May 8 North Carolina

ROTC Rifle Team Defeats Temple; Loses to Penn

Washington and Lee's ROTC Rifle Team defeated Temple University this week, but fell before Pennsylvania State College in two postal matches.

The local team fired only once on the VMI rifle range for both of last week matches. The team score of 1837 was enough to win handily from the Temple squad but was thirty points shy of the 1867 fired by Penn State.

Bill Fray again led the Wash- (Continued on page four)

Replacements Are Big Problem as Wise Conducts Spring Grid Drills

By PAUL SANDERS

Spring football practice opened for W&L gridmen last Tuesday, Mar. 10, with 40 men reporting to Coach Carl Wise. The spring session will be given over to fundamentals—running, blocking, tackling, and executing plays in an attempt to adjust practice to the old one-platoon system.

The coaches are trying to find the best 11 men and 11 replacements for them, while giving the young boys more experience and adapting the whole team to the system. The University will be able to see the results of this practice at the intra-squad game on Apr. 18.

The biggest problem of this year, according to Wise, will be the replacement of Wes Abrams and Randy Broyles in the backfield and Jack Delahunty and Bill Trollinger on the line. Replacements must also be found for end Bob Thomas and offensive-defensive back Bill Scott.

Some temporary changes have

already been made in the lineup. Walt Degree, defensive guard, has been switched to the offensive fullback post, and Don Weaver is at the offensive guard position in a try to stabilize the line backers.

ASKED IF the one platoon system would be an advantage to the Generals, Wise said that eventually it would, but he doubted that during the adjustment period it will help anyone. He said the reason for this was that coaches will have to spend more time developing the fundamentals of all aspects of the game instead of concentrating on the different specialties and also that the boys will have to be better all around players to be any good.

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Number One South Main Street

Four Schedule Parties

Four fraternities will have closed house parties this weekend. DU will hold a costume ball with a carnival theme. Lambda Chi will also have its costume ball. Phi Psi's costume party will feature a French Apache theme. Closing the season before Spring Vacation will be PiKA.

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Chicken

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Rifle Team Wins, Loses
(Continued from page three)

ington and Lee Team on the range. Fray fired a perfect score of 100

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in the prone position and went on to get 95 in the sitting position,

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