

# The Columns

Volume I

LEXINGTON, VIRGINIA, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1944

Number 16

## ON and OFF

by

Ned Brooks and Kimber White

With college basketball entering its final month of actual competition, all eyes are being turned toward the incoming cage tournaments which begin on March 26th. New York will be host to the National Invitation tourney which brings together the top aggregations of the Eastern sector. The N.C.A.A. event takes place during the same period of time, and following last year's custom, officials are trying to pit the respective tourney winners against each other in order to crown a country-wide champ.

Eastern prominence belongs to Dartmouth, and Army, the former composed of V-12 athletes from various schools around the country, and Army made up mainly of its football players, headed by high scorer Doug Kenna. However, no matter how good the Indians from Hanover are, when they tackle the bean-pole players of the middle and far-western outfits, only the score will tell whether or not the Hanoverians have proven their mettle. For the past few seasons the Garden in New York has been the scene of some hot tourney finales, and this year should prove no exception. If a final tilt between Dartmouth and DePaul should take place, it will certainly be worth watching, and might become a worthy successor to last year's curtain-closer between St. John's and Wyoming, wherein the Redmen whipped the mid-westerners in the last second of play.

### Flashes From Far and Near:

Now that the intra-mural program in basket-ball is being resumed, it is suggested that all teams keep in close contact with the schedules posted on the bulletin boards in the gym . . . the new freshmen are expected to participate in the intra-murals, and provide some "new blood" in the games . . .

Gil Dodds ran the fastest indoor mile ever seen at Boston last Saturday night but disappointed the arena fans by not galloping in faster tempo . . . his time was 4:09:5 . . . that's still picking 'em up and laying 'em down . . .

**Scop:** Bill Maxwell, strong man of the athletic department will be out for his fourth 145-pound amateur class championship at the current A.A.U. wrestling tournament to be held in Baltimore March 16th. Accompanying him will be Dave Lewis former mat-man for the Generals, who will also take part in the events at his home town at that time.

## Army-Navy Exams

The Army Navy, A-12 and V-12 mental examinations will be given at Washington and Lee on March 15. All men wishing to take this exam or desiring more information on the subject must see Dean R. N. Latture as soon as possible.

## Two Term Limit Upheld by FU

Debating the question of imposing a two-term limitation upon our national executive, the Forensic Union this week, though hampered by small attendance, found itself engaged in a very interesting and lively debate, with Bill Brotherton upholding the affirmative and Julian Frank the negative.

Some of the arguments presented by Brotherton, the affirmative speaker were: 1. That a two-term tenure of office is more or less a matter of tradition. 2. No man should be subjected to the physical strain of the presidency for a longer time, and 3. The danger of acquiring dictatorial powers.

However, Frank, the negative speaker brought up some good points, namely: 1. In case of necessity, the chief executive could be removed very easily. 2. Our check and balance system would prevent him from gaining dictatorial powers. 3. It would be undemocratic to prevent a man from holding office if he so desired, and 4. The danger of "changing horses" during a national crisis.

After the speeches had been delivered, the floor was thrown open to discussion and members of the Union expressed themselves freely on the subject.

A vote was then taken with the affirmative side of the question being upheld.

There will be no meeting of the Forensic Union next week, but all members and those wishing to join are urged to be present at the next session.

## Alumni in Service

**2nd Lieutenant Gordon Alford,** '42, U.S. Army Air Corps, was killed on January 25 when the B-26 Marauder Bomber which he was piloting crashed near the Sioux City, Iowa, Army air field. The plane had just taken off from the field on a return trip to its Dodge City, Kansas, air base, whence it had come on a routine training flight. Lt. Alford graduated from W&L in 1942 with a B.A. degree in journalism.

## Vagabonds Signed for Formal; Ticket Drive Starts on Monday

### We Regret that . . . .

Due to unforeseen circumstances, **The Columns** was forced to condense itself into two pages for this week's issue. We wish to apologize to members of the student body and to our other readers for this abridged edition of the newspaper.

## Lambda Chimen Defeat Lairds' Five by 46-28

### Revamped Winners Have Little Trouble; Newcomers Show Merit

In the first intramural contest since Winter exams, the Lambda Chis trounced Lairds quintet by the score of 46-28.

The winners, although having lost Coover, Motley and West for sundry reasons, played well with Warren Merrin helping no end by his stellar backboard accomplishments. Led by George Bowers and newcomer Jimmy Clower, each with 14 points, aided by the playing of Bill Pifer, also a newcomer to the aggregation, and Ned Brooks, with 6 and 12 points respectively, the victors were never headed throughout the length of the contest. Merrin deserves recognition for his able work under the boards, and the combined willingness and spirit of the revamped Lambdas proves without a doubt that they are ready to give the rugged Phi Psi five a battle for the intra-mural title.

The losing outfit was sadly disorganized both in spirit and play, and relied mainly on the shooting of Jack Watson, Sonny Blaine and Henry Oder for their points. Alex Walker, per usual, tried vainly to sink some markers from far court, and Bill Berry, borrowed from the winners, made two points for himself early in the tilt. Berry, playing the first time in the league, showed promise of becoming an able man to call upon in the Lambda Chi squad.

The game was played in fast time, and without many fouls being called on either side. The big test comes when the tough Phi Psi crew tangles with the Lambda Chis.

## Green and White Motif Will Decorate Gym; Ball to Last 9 to 12 p.m.

The Vagabonds will be the band on the stand for the Washington and Lee Spring Formal, Dance Committee Chairman Jack Crowder announced this week as the final contract was signed with the Lynchburg aggregation for the March 4, Saturday, evening event.

### Vagabonds Led by Perry

The Vagabonds played for the first VMI Hops of the fall season and were also heard at the W&L Fall Formal. The group is the former Freddie Lee band, now being led by Angelo Perry, Lee having entered the army. The vocal spot in the music-making is filled by pretty Mary Cline.

### Decoration Scheme

The decoration scheme for the dance will be one of green and white, similar to that seen at the Fall Formal. No chairman for the decorations committee has yet been named; but Crowder stated that one will be appointed next Tuesday at the Executive Committee meeting. He also said that cooperation of the student body will be asked when a call is made for volunteers to help arrange the preceding the dance.

### AST Ticket Drive Monday

The ticket drive for the Spring Formal will begin Monday evening when the AST platoon houses are canvassed by members of the ticket committee. At this time those AST cadets who desire to attend the dance, but who have no dates may give their names to the committee. Dr. L. J. Desha, faculty Dance Adviser, is in contact with several nearby girls schools and has arranged to secure dates for AST men.

### Civilian Drive Next Week

The subscription drive among civilian students will begin later in the week, following the AST canvas. Tickets for the Spring Formal are priced at \$2.00 during the advance drive, and \$2.50 at the door the night of the dance.

The Executive Committee asks every student to cooperate and buy his ticket early.

The event is scheduled to begin at 9 and will run to midnight, with a short intermission midway in the evening. VMI cadets and friends of students are invited to attend, but friends must be registered with a dance board member.

# Platoon News

## 2nd Platoon

The prime factor of interest in this platoon is now its leadership in the efficiency competition. The clamor and shouting which takes place when the whistle blows is truly amazing. Woe to the poor late-comer: raucous "wolf calls" are his lot. However, win or lose,

the 2nd platoon agrees that the competition is certainly getting the company "on the ball."

Among those seen at Southern Sem over the week-end were Cross, Mulholland, and Moretti. Perhaps they were scouting for dates for the coming W&L formal dance. Joy reigned in the room of the "Blue Eight" when they received collectively a valentine from Keller's girl friend. Bonner, Cooper, and Ross are starting a Baldheaded Bachelor's club. All interested in joining should contact them. Meanwhile they drowned their sorrows in Roanoke last week-end. Lack of cash seems to have kept the other cadets in the platoon from week-end festivity.



MATINEES 2 and 4  
Daily and Sunday

EVENINGS 7 and 9  
Sunday, One show, 9:15

LAST TIMES SATURDAY

Mary Martin  
Franchot Tone

## True to Life

SUN.-MON.-TUES.



Play by Therese Lewis and Barry Trive  
News - Disney Cartoon

WEDNESDAY

## Pistol Packin' Mama

with  
Ruth Terry  
Robert Livingston

## Show Team Time

by Bill Romaine

Rosalind Russell and Willard Parker jitterbug into the State on Sun. Mon. Tues. in **What a Woman**, while Brian Aherne looks on, quite amused. This time Roz is a literary agent trying to sell an actor, so watch out for another RR three ring hit!

Ruth Terry and Bob Livingston gallop in for Wednesday's performance, lethal weapons and all, to tear through a rip-snortin' (?) **Pistol Packin' Mama**. Engaged in the toils of a somewhat unethical business feud, the two manage to get in several warblings of the title song, so come one, come all, you Al Dexter lovers.

ThurFriSat clear the sands for action and **Desert Song**, starring Irene Manning and Dennis Mor-

gan, with a truly pre-war cast and staging. On the order of a good old-fashioned extravaganza, the pic is probably the last of its kind for a long time. The plot and action are in keeping with all the other top features of the show. See it.

An so to the hawse opry . . .

MonTues at the Lyric, **Submarine Alert**, with Dick Arlen and Wendie Barrie foiling the Axis spies in a good old melodrama of nasty Nazis and stuff. On Wednesday The Old Groaner goes to work again, and Bing and Dottie Lamour bring **Dixie** (attention Davidson) back, beautiful technicolor and all. Tom Conway as the Falcon opens festivities on Thursday, and for the first time tries to mix murder with too many women. **The Falcon and Co-eds.** It's not Flynn and it's not technicolor, but **Red River Robin Hood** nevertheless tries an inept parallel on that familiar rob-the-rich-give-to-the-poor formula. Enough of this love-making! Les' flip the patters!

Bluebird seems to be plugging the Twentieth Century Gabriel of late, so let's take a look at Erskine Hawkins' **Cherry and Country Boy**. The first side is a straight and ungarnished of HJ's number, but the flipover spots some really relaxed Hawkins tooting, and the full band hits some mellow riffs. Cab Calloway on Okeh has recorded **I'll be Around**, and **Virginia, Georgia, and Caroline**. Try it; it's good dance stuff.

## Men About Town . . .

This week's column begins with an anecdote. Our celebrated B. M.O.C. William A. Davidson (don't forget the II) was caught more or less "with his pants" down the other day in Spanish class. Arising on that morning ten minutes late, he reached for his clothes and headed for class. Mr. Graham was reciting "Besame Mucho, Besame Bien" when Bill appeared, unshaven, shirt collar open to the waist, suspenders catching the breeze, one sock grasped firmly in his hand, the other draped grotesquely around his ankles. The class rested on its laurels until the unhappy Davidson finished his dressing.

Personalities of the week are:

Henry Oder, who says he greatly enjoyed the "basketball" game in Lynchburg; "Emergency" Mayberry frantically calling the Sem after hours with pleading in his voice, "But, operator, I must speak to her. This is—that is—it may be—this is an—Emergency; John "Flash" McWhorter who has achieved the name "Tarzan" since his recent return from Lynchburg. Ask him about it if you want to hear a good story; Warren Merrin who split his shirt down the front the other day after reading his recommendations for the air corps; our "Sexy Prexy" standing at the Ewing Studio windows intently studying a picture there; "Chloroform" Brookes who managed to wring a confession from his New York deb after filling her with drugs; Bruce Quayle feverishly inquiring if someone wouldn't have a date with "Plezz's" roommate for the Colonial Ball; "Wooden Leg" Cooley who suddenly developed arthritis during a dance at Sem after his girl "stepped on his toes;" Jack Davidson who received a scented valentine from his girl even after having campused her until spring; John "These Loves of Mine" Clarke who has already made two dates for one week-end at Macon.

## Platoon News

### 4th Platoon

A letter from Jim Goddard reveals that he is in a swell set up. There are only about fifty men in the unit up at Temple and his company officer is a second lieutenant. The boys up there have more invitations from the co-eds than they know what to do with. Oh, to be in Philadelphia! The fourth platoon received a rather bad jolt in the form of minus fifty points when "two bit" Pavis and Perala ran into transportation difficulties recently. The mess hall situation is causing considerable comment these days. Perhaps it's not within the scope of this article to say anything about the situation; but, something should be done. When the men arrive in the mess hall a couple of minutes early as they sometimes do, they still cannot be served until just the right time. This ought to be remedied, because even a few minutes saved here would help out in balancing our time budget. Also there is quite a bit of griping at times about the size of the portions dished out; maybe this is a case of over-thriftiness and may be it is a case of food shortage. At any rate, something should be done.

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