

The Columns

Volume I

LEXINGTON, VIRGINIA, SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 1944

Number 20

New SSS Class Opens

Last Tuesday the School for Special Service opened its twentieth session since the unit was organized, at Fort George Meade in March, 1942, and the thirteenth since it arrived on the W&L campus on December 7, 1942. The new class combines the twentieth Athletic and Recreation group and the eighth Orientation and Education class.

There are a total of about 450 officers and enlisted men and women students in the present group. This is the first time since the school's inception that there have been enlisted members of the Women's Army Corps among the student body of the School for Special Service.

Up to the present time nothing more has been heard about the projected Army Post Exchange School which is tentatively scheduled for transfer from Princeton University to Washington and Lee. It is understood that sessions of the group will not begin until after the present SSS class terminates in the middle of April.

Softball, Tennis, Golf on Spring I-M Schedule

Twombly Sets Spring Sport Program Plan

With the intramural cage season ending on the Phi Psi championship clinching victory last week, the campus sports activity will turn next to intramural softball, tennis and golf.

Tops in interest is the softball league, which is tentatively slated to be made up of three teams, the Phi Psi unit, the Lambda Chi group, and a combined SAE-Laird team. Cy Twombly, University physical education director, said that he is now drawing up schedules for the three teams and that as soon as the ground is in condition, the competition will start. Last year's intramural softball champions were the Pi KAs, from which team five men remain in school. They are Bill Davidson, Wise Kelly, Steve Cooley, Al Woodruff, and T. C. Bowen.

Twombly also discussed the possibility of organizing a W&L baseball squad, if enough interest is shown among students. He said that a schedule of games might be arranged with the School for Special Service and several other teams. Primary interest, however,

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W&L Alumnus Killed in Crash

Tom Petriken at Yale;
Joe Ellis Visits Campus;
Alumni News Asked

Lieutenant Chandler Sargeant Whipple, '43, of the Army Air Force was killed in action in the South Pacific on October 5, 1943, according to word just received by the Alumni office. Piloting a B-25 Mitchell bomber, Lt. Whipple was on a strafing mission against a Japanese position near Madang, New Guinea, when his plane was shot down by enemy fire. He was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and promoted to a First Lieutenant.

Lt. Whipple underwent his primary and basic flight training as an Air Cadet at Dos Palos and Merced, California. He graduated and was commissioned at the end of advanced training at Stockton Field, Calif., on January 2, 1943, going overseas in May of the same year. Lt. Whipple's home was in Bristol, New Hampshire.

A-C Thomas E. Petriken, '44 Army Air Corps, has entered the communications officers school at Yale University for an 18-week course. Petriken, who was called to active duty last October and who was granted a degree in absentia this February, was formerly assigned to the Pre-Technical School at Seymour Johnson Field, North Carolina.

Ensign Joseph Ellis, '43, U.S. Navy, visited Washington and Lee this week while en route to his home in Mississippi after several months' duty in the South Pacific. Ellis, a January, '43, graduate, attended the Navy Training School at Notre Dame and, following graduation, was immediately assigned to duty aboard a South Pacific destroyer. While at W&L, Ellis was editor of The Ring-tum Phi, and a member of ODK, Phi Beta Kappa, and SAE.

Edwin Flemming "Bud" Robb, '43, an Air Cadet in the Naval Air Corps, is now attending flight school at the Naval Air Station in Lakehurst, New Jersey. He is scheduled to complete his course and be graduated as an Ensign on or about April 5. Last year A/C Robb was editor of The Calyx, co-coach and co-captain of the Generals' wrestling team, and a member of Phi Kappa Psi.

Jack Burger, '45, U.S. Merchant Marine, recently completed three months of classroom training at

(Continued on page four)

A Mississippi Romance

Wednesday, March 15, was the twenty-seventh wedding anniversary of Dr. and Mrs. Francis P. Gaines, the President and the President's lady of Washington and Lee University. The story of their courtship is like a chapter from a Southern romance.

When the two first met, Mrs. Gaines was the daughter of the Dean of Mississippi State College. Dr. Gaines was teaching in the college at the time and was taking meals with the Dean and his family.

(Continued on page four)

Herndon Senior Library Award Standards Listed

Prize Offer for Best Senior's Book Collection

The Herndon Library Award this year is open to all men who will graduate by January, 1945, according to an announcement made this week by Richard H. Shoemaker, acting University Librarian, for the Library Committee.

The prize of a rather large sum of money is offered by Dr. John G. Herndon of the class of 1911, now on the faculty of Haverford College, to that senior who has collected and presents for consideration the best student library acquired during his undergraduate course. The rules under which the contest for the prize is held are as follows:

1. The prize will be given only to a senior in the undergraduate school.
2. All books owned by the contestant since his junior year will be eligible.
3. Merit of the library will depend upon size, quality, and the representation of the contestant's interests.
4. Each contestant will be required to explain his method of selection to the library committee of the faculty.
5. Each contestant will be required to hand in to the committee a typewritten list of his books alphabetically arranged by authors.
6. Libraries of each contestant must be placed in the Cyrus Hall McCormick library of Washington and Lee University by April 15, at a place designated by the University librarian.
7. In any year when the judges feel that no senior has a worthy library, the award will not be made.

Engineers Leave To Join Troops; Pre-Meds Stay

Report Friday After Sendoff on Thursday

Ending a month-long period of waiting, the Washington and Lee basic engineering unit of the Army Specialized Training Program was withdrawn from Lexington on Friday. The cadets had been expecting to leave every since the announcement was made on February 18 that the majority of the ASTP students in the country would be called out of school.

The departure of the basic engineers from the W&L unit which numbered about 220 men at the beginning of the present quarter left some 64 cadets still enrolled in the group here. Of these, there are 48 pre-medics who are expected to remain at least until the end of the present quarter and possibly longer. The rest are basic engineering students who have been accepted for the pre-medical training course on the basis of aptitude tests given to the unit.

Thursday night in the mess hall the departing cadets were given a sendoff party to which all the ASTP students, officers, enlisted aids, and members of the faculty were invited. Songs, food, impromptu entertainment, about 30 cases of beer and innumerable bags of popcorn served to make the gathering a memorable occasion for the outgoing students.

Friday afternoon all cadet baggage was loaded onto trucks and dispatched. Friday night the men boarded a train at Buena Vista for the Indian Gap, Pennsylvania, Camp where they will rejoin the troops.

The mid-quarter withdrawal left the status of the faculty members who were devoting all their time to ASTP classes somewhat in doubt, but there are no changes expected in the faculty at the present time. Classes have been changed about or regrouped in some instances to concentrate the remaining AST men into one section wherever possible. Because of the decrease in W&L AST enrollment, the personnel unit now stationed in Newcomb Hall will be somewhat reduced.

No Freshman Violations

No freshmen violation having been reported within the last week, the freshmen will have one more week deducted from their hat-wearing period. The new date for removal is March 25.

The Columns

Serving the W. and L. Community

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R. B. Quayle.....Editor
J. K. Davidson.....Business Manager

Saturday, March 18, 1944

The W & L Spirit

WE WERE TALKING the other day with a Washington and Lee alumnus, a graduate of the class of 1943. He was in the Navy and had been several months in the South Pacific, at New Guinea and New Caledonia and several other island outposts. He said that out there away from home one of his greatest pleasures was to meet a W&L man, whether he had known him before their chance encounter or not. They'd just sit around and "bat the breeze" for a couple of hours about all the latest news they had of W&L and of their classmates. It was like meeting an old friend from home.

IT WAS ONCE SAID that whenever two college men get together they will start a club. It might be added that whenever two W&L men get together they will start a friendship, a friendship in which they are bound by the common ideals which we call the Washington and Lee spirit, and by a mutual love for the white columns and the fighting "Big Blue" and "The Swing."

THERE ARE NOW some 2660 Washington and Lee men in the armed forces scattered all over the world from New Caledonia to Ireland, and to Dutch Harbor at the tip of the Aleutians. Almost half of these men have gone in to service within the last year and a half. We constantly hear from and receive letters about Joe Smith, '43, who bumped into George Brown, '41, in the paymaster's office in Algiers or San Diego or Pensacola, and learn that George was able to give Joe a hand out of a tough situation or to get him an overnight pass. Or else just that they got together for a night of reminiscing.

WHEREVER YOU GO after you leave W&L, whether during or after this war, you will find a Washington and Lee man, and there you will find a friend. Every man who leaves here, goes out into the world with an added spirit of good fellowship and close feeling for others that does not usually come from most colleges. Washington and Lee men are proud of their school and are loyal to it and to those who are also loyal. So find a Washington and Lee man, a true Washington and Lee man, and you've found a friend.

Of Dogs

ONCE UPON A TIME you could say that W&L had "gone to the dogs" and not have been insulting the University at all. That is if you said it in the sense that we went in for dogs, as some people have gone to whiskey or girls or such. Time was when this

(Continued in third column)

Show Team Time

by Bill Romaine

The State breaks out with **Around the World** on Sunday and Monday; Kay Kyser and Kompany take a crack at globe-trotting. A crash in the jungle leaves them time for some improbable antics, so in the process Joan Davis and Mischa Auer hit some pretty zany moments. Jus' another Kyser Komedy.

TuesWed brings another excellent mid-week feature in the form of **Lost Angel**. Margaret O'Brien, James Craig and Marsha Hunt top a good cast, but if you watch this O'Brien kid, you won't have time for other and lesser things. Little Miss MO'B has the ease and poise of an older and much more experienced actress, and on this diminutive thespian it looks good. By all means see **Lost Angel**.

The State really comes on Thurs Fri Sat with the Tregaskis Book-of-the-Month Club best-seller, **Guadalcanal Diary**, and it's a hard and tough version that pulls no punches. With a cast including such men as Preston Foster and Bill Bendix, the climax of the capture of the island itself finishes off some of the best movie dynamite of the year. Yes, Davidson, I recommend it!!!!

Off to the Crossroads of Rock-bridge County.

MonTues **The Sultan's Daughter** starts off the week's fare at the Lyric, and Ann Corio (what was it that girl used to do?) can be located baffling spies of all kinds for an hour. On Wednesday **Princess O'Rourke** returns to Lexington, so if you haven't seen it, don't miss it this time. In this story about foreign nobility hunting for an American husband, Olivia de Havilland and Robert Cummings leave no dull moments. Thursday brings the **Deerslayer**, with Bruce Kellog in a Republic production of James Fenimore Cooper's novel. Bill Boyd is on **Border Patrol** this time, so Friday and Saturday are again occupied with Bang! Bang!

RECORDS: Capitol seems to have it this week with the lone big-band release. Freddie Slack's recording of **Furlough Fling** and **Silver Wings in the Moonlight** is not unusual, but good Slack stuff. Fling, though based on some pretty trite riffs, comes through with good piano by the leader, powerful brass section work, and a strong rhythm section.

The reverse is a not-outstanding vocal by Margaret Whiting, and the orchestral backing is nondescript. You might try that new Goodman-Miller-Dorsey-Shaw album that has come out recently; it's got some of the best of those bands from past years, and the collection is representative of an era that won't be forgotten soon.

ON and OFF

Sports facts and oddities on and off the campus

by Ned Brooks

CONTINUING the pattern set last week we again will devote this column to Baseball, which is the only major sport now controlling the limelight. Spring training in most cases will have already started by the time this column goes to press with the two New York outfits having begun the merry-go-round. The Yankees were the first major league nine to hit the practice field in preparation for the coming season which opens on April the 18th. Following the Yanks came the New York Giants, last season's cellar dwellers in the National League, who learned during their warm-up period that their able Manager, Mel Ott, had been re-classified I-A in the draft, but didn't know when he would be called. Otty, one of the greatest ball players of all time and one of the most popular managers of the day, will be a disastrous loss for the boys from Coogan's Bluff should he venture into service. The left-handed slugger has been one of the main reasons why New York Giant rooters have stuck by the team when the days became dark, and the "Gints" were sublimely dwelling in yonder cellar. Most senior circuit pitchers fear Ott's potent bat, and the right field wall in New York's Polo Grounds has swallowed many of the Ott home runs. Mel can always be characterized by his peculiar, but famous, batting stance. He inevitably raises that right leg before swinging at a pitch, and when that limb is raised it is a deadly sign for outfielders to start backing up. Yes, the Giants and baseball in general will lose a valuable man if the "Wonder Boy" leaves.

ANOTHER PIECE of bad news came from the Yankee training camp in Atlantic City late yesterday afternoon. Nick Etten, the only infielder of last year's combination expected back, told Manager McCarthy that he too had been re-classified I-A.

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Of Dogs

(Continued from first column)

was just the doggiest campus in all Virginia, in just about all of the South, almost. We had dogs to spare, and almost enough to go one for every student.

EVIL TIMES have come, there are no more dog days. Last month sometime, that ageless merchant of the mutts, "Herb the Dog Man," passed away from pneumonia or something closely akin to it. For years Herb had been the canine caretaker of the campus. He always had a spare "thoroughbred" that you could pick up for a saw buck; but now the dire dog dealer is dead. We have a virtual dog blockade.

LAST YEAR at this time the campus was alive with canines. Big and little, black and white, male and female. Generally all female visitors left amid a great hue and cry of the pursuing pack, but some came to stay. No one will ever forget the day last Spring when Sigma, well-known black skeleton about town, consumed a quite dead feline in front of Payne Hall. Several people were reported green about the gills at the sight. The king of this motley crew was "Rip." Ripper was ageless and always walked as if he were posing for slow motion. But the Ripper has disappeared this year. Maybe he's gone to greener pastures, or maybe the meat shortage drove him closer to home. But we miss him.

WHAT THIS CAMPUS needs is a few more dogs. Sigma, Neuter, and Dr. Bean's great black bear can't long keep up this monopoly. Let's get some dogs. Recruit them for Special Service if need be, but W&L will never be the same without some dogs.



Come On Over

The Sweet Briar invitation to the students of Washington and Lee is still open to all those who wish to attend a dance to be given at the Amherst girls' school on Saturday, April 1. Plans are now in progress for the trip, and word is being awaited from Miss Catherine Tift as to whether or not the affair will be formal or informal.

In view of the transportation difficulties which seemed to hamper the jaunt, The Columns has made a survey of the possible bus routes to Sweet Briar. Following are the findings:

Buses leave Amherst for Sweet Briar: 3:50, 4:19, 7:19, 7:40, 9:00, and 9:15 p.m.

A bus leaves Sweet Briar at 11:00 p.m. for Amherst, while the bus from Richmond to Lexington stops at Amherst at 12:00. Buses may be had from Amherst to Lynchburg at 11:15 and 11:50, from whence a bus leaves for Lexington.

The only bus from Lexington to Amherst is the Richmond route bus which leaves at 11:35 a.m. daily. A bus leaves for Lynchburg in mid-afternoon.

From Lynchburg a bus runs to Sweet Briar at the following hours: 12:15, 3:00 and 5:30 p.m.

According to a letter from the SB social committee, transportation might be arranged by them if suitable schedule could not be worked out from Lexington.

As before, all those who wish to be listed for the Sweet Briar trip, give your names to McNeil, Coover, Quayle, or drop them plainly marked for SB into the yellow assimilation boxes about the campus.

Men About Town . . .

This week's Man About Town starts with a tale of a lady about town, a lady about many towns, perhaps, and of a lazy Spring afternoon. Said damsel blew into Lex. on a Monday bus and had a few hours to kill before she could make connections—with a bus, that is. Meanwhile time was heavy when who should come into view but that W&L gentleman of the old school, Squire Ray English. Not the least bit forward, this traveler from New York, a point to be mentioned, picked up Ray, or vice-versa, depending on who tells the story. . . Well, anyhow, "Ing" decided to show Miss NYC the town in all its glory. Nothing like Lexington on a Monday afternoon in Spring. Sir Galahad escorted his date to the Southern, the prime spot of the town, not comparable to Cafe Society Uptown or Longchamp's, you understand, but the lady must have the best. After a gay tete-a-tete over a meal, on to the campus, a view of the columns, a short whirl down Letcher Avenue to VMI and a glimpse of the romantic WP of the South. The Lexington Merry-Go-Round finally wound up downtown for supper, then a brief look in, but brief, on Lexington night life in the House-That Pinnell-Built. Winding up the day in true W&L style, English saw Miss "Greyhound" down to McCrum's garage for an 8:30 bus where she promised to stop back "as soon as I can." And off she went in a cloud of carbon monoxide. "Ho, hum, what will next Monday offer?" says English.

Curl's Gift Girl

One of the brightest lights in last week end's gaiety was the picture that Mayberry's moll, Mayberry's ex-moll, Patty Gift made over at the Institute's clam bake. Gift was dating Bob Curl that night—Curl and about half the Phi Psi House. . . Poor Curl got the rush act from the boys, and make believe that Gift didn't eat it up. The highlight of the highlight came when Patty took to the stand, flaming red dress and all, and made with the vocals. Lushly she gave out "I Never Knew" as Drake stood by the mike drooling. Later in the evening's capers PG, not to be confused

with the soap of the same name—but she is a good cleaner, warbled "As Time Goes By." By now Drake was drowning and Clower and Curl were floating six inches off the floor.

The VMI hop committee wanted to sign her up permanently, but by then the wolves were around again, and Curl, standing on the outside of the mob, told them to go. All in all, it was a big night. . . Rumor hath it that the Phi Psi crew is forming a Patty Gift Corporation so that they can all date her at once, Mrs. Robey to the contrary.

"And where's Mayberry these days! . . . T.O. was over at Sem that night. . . He got six letters of recommendation and they let him in. Next time they'll take the ball and chain off and let him walk around. BMOC Davidson deserted the girls at the State and went over too, long enough to put the "Dix" back on campus for a week. . . This week back to the State, next week????? . . . It's a gay circle. . . .

Speaking of soap as we were once, it seems that Messers Hochstim and Clower of the "Fairyl-land" crew made an offensive patrol over into Phi Psi land one night last week and cleaned out those two tricky dealers, McNeil and Sammons, in a little game of jacks or something, or maybe there were queens, kings and aces in on it too. . . Pretty soon they'll get up into Pinnell's league. . . Before we go, we wish to say that K. Littlepage White didn't want his name mentioned. . . .

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ON and OFF

(Continued from page two)

but said that he did not expect to be called before July. The Yankees were restricted to limbering up exercises yesterday due to muddy terrain outside, but "Marse Joe" announced that as soon as weather permitted he would begin getting down to hard work.

In Bloomington, Indiana, where the Cincy Reds are taking their Spring training this season, it was an entirely different matter. Deacon Bill McKechnie, Redleg mentor, roused his hirelings from their slumber bright and early, and started the day's chores by giving his boys a pep talk. With good weather on hand, the Deacon sent his men through bunting drills, running around the base-paths and calisthenics. Manager Lou Boudreau of the troublesome Indians received signed contracts from two more ball players, and began his ordeals with limbering up maneuvers. Ron Northey, potent Philly batter, notified his boss that he was a definite hold-out, and that only a substantial raise in salary could bring him to terms.

That's all for baseball now, and Spring training will take care of itself.

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Mississippi Romance

(Continued from page one)

The daughter of the Dean, very young and very beautiful, was having trouble with her Latin, a failing common to many young

people. To remedy the shortcomings of his daughter, the Dean decided that Dr. Gaines would be the ideal tutor for his daughter. The young teacher was engaged, and the tutoring in Latin progressed. Dr. Gaines would not say, but the romance progressed probably a good deal faster than the Latin.

Soon the pair became engaged, and when they were married, Mrs. Gaines was at the young age of seventeen. Dr. Gaines said that "If I had it to do over again, I'd do the same thing."

So to our President and his Lady we extend best wishes and hope that many more anniversaries will be theirs.

Gimme a Penny



Commenting on the latest campus happenings, Mr. E. Roane, Lexington financial expert, said, "I feel that the recent ASTP departure will somewhat affect the local money exchange; however, the arrival of the School for Special Service class is expected to counteract the detrimental effects to a large degree."

Spring Sports

(Continued from page one)

will still be on intramural softball.

An intramural tennis tournament can be organized if any students in the University are interested in engaging in a racket match. The affair would be an elimination contest, with one loss taking the contestant out of the match. Bobby Gaines, the tennis champ in 1943 for Delta Tau Delta, is now in the V-12 unit at Duke University.

For those interested in an intramural golf match, a one-day tourney will be played, Twombly said. The golf games are held at the Lexington Country Club which is on the old road to Roanoke, about two miles from town. Guy Yaste, representing the SAEs, annexed the golf title last year with a card of 75 and is favored in the betting as the possible champion for 1944. The other top intramural golfer left in school is Bill Guthrie who fired an 83 total last year for fourth place honors.

All Spring sports schedules will be announced in The Columns.

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News—Sports

TUESDAY-WEDNESDAY



Lost Angel
Starring **MARGARET O'BRIEN**
JAMES CRAIG • Marsha Hunt
Philip Merivale • Henry O'Neill
Donald Meek
Original Screen Play by Isabel Lennart
Based on an idea by Angus Enters
Directed by Roy Rowland
Produced by Robert Sisk

Popular Science
Pete Smith

Alumni in Service

(Continued from page one)

the Merchant Marine Academy at King's Point, Long Island, and has been assigned to sea duty. He is sailing aboard the S.S. Joseph Hewes. Burger was a member of Phi Delta Theta, and his home is in Staten Island, New York.

William Wright Daniel, '46, Army Air Corps, recently received the silver wings of an AAF pilot and was sworn in as a flight officer at ceremonies held at Napier Field, Alabama, an advanced single-engine pilot school of the AAF Training Command. Daniel received his preliminary flight training at Maxwell Field, Alabama.

The Washington and Lee Alumni office is maintaining a Service file of all W&L men in the armed forces and would appreciate any information which might be forwarded to it regarding any alumni in service, especially members of recent classes.

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20 Take Service Test

The joint Army A-12 and Navy V-12 mental examination was given Wednesday at W&L for those who wished to be considered for the college training program of either of the armed services. The results of these tests will be announced about three weeks to a month following the examination date.

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