

The Columns

Volume II

LEXINGTON, VIRGINIA, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1944

Number 5

Opening Dances Will Usher in Social Season

Alumnus Awarded DFC; Has Flown 50 Missions; In First Attack on Ploesti

Captain W. Marshall Johnson, who graduated from Washington and Lee in 1942, has flown fifty combat missions over enemy territory in Nazi Europe. For his part in a highly successful attack on the rail yards at Simeria, Rumania, in June, Capt. Johnson was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

A member of Sigma Delta Chi and Lambda Chi Alpha, Captain Johnson made an excellent record at Washington and Lee. He received his A.B. degree with a certificate in journalism, cum laude. He was on **The Ring-tum Phi** staff for three years, and was desk editor his third. He was president of Sigma Delta Chi during his senior year, as well as president of the International Relations Club, and he was a representative on the Executive Committee several times.

Captain Johnson considers his attacks on the aircraft plants at Steyr, Austria, and Regensburg, Germany, as being his most memorable missions. "These industrial centers," says he, "were most vital to Hitler's war effort and consequently heavily defended by both fighters and anti-aircraft guns. One could expect everything thrown at them there. On four missions to those targets, I was never disappointed."

This airman is a member of a heavy bombardment group that has flown over three hundred combat missions and has been twice cited by the President of the United States for extraordinary achievement. The first citation was for the low-level attack on the oil center of Ploesti, in August, 1943. The second was awarded for "outstanding efficiency and sustained performance" in support of the 8th Army in the Middle East.

In addition to the DFC, he has been awarded the Air Medal with six oak leaf clusters, and wears also the European-African-Middle Eastern Ribbon, with one battle star.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Johnson, of Manassas, Virginia, Capt. Johnson was employed as a newspaperman before entering the army in June, 1942. He received his commission and wings at Selman Field, Monroe, La., August 14, 1943.

Roosevelt Leads In Student Poll; Dewey Close 2nd

Mock Conventions Held To Settle Presidential Choice Here in Past

Washington and Lee University votes for Franklin D. Roosevelt, according to a student body poll conducted this week. Eighty per cent of the student body were interviewed for their opinion of the coming election and it was found that Roosevelt was the favorite candidate of the majority of the students.

Fifty-eight per cent of the student body answered "Roosevelt" to the question, "If you could vote, which candidate would you vote for, Roosevelt or Dewey?" while only forty per cent answered "Dewey." One student, who makes up two per cent of the student body, said he would vote for Byrd.

Student opinions as to Presidential choice have been quite colorful in past years. The usual procedure was to hold a great convention in Doremus Gymnasium with participation by the entire student body which was broken up into delegate groups from all the 48 states and territories. A prominent Senator or Representative would usually deliver the opening address before this mock convention. The Nation's interest would be centered on Lexington during this procedure and newsmen from all the wire services, reporters, and commentators were in the press box to cover the action.

In all respects the Washington and Lee mock convention, unique and outstanding in college circles, was greatly similar to the feverish excitement, political campaigns, blaring bands, and paper confetti which are so typical of the national conventions. Unfortunately our greatly reduced student body, as well as facilities, would not permit this traditional affair to be held this year.

Forensic Union

The Forensic Union will debate next week whether or not the University's policy of post-war athletic scholarships will be increased, with Jim Carpenter speaking for the affirmative and David Brown for the negative.

Student, President Gains Celebrate Family Additions

Something new was added on Tuesday, September 26, when Max Dennis of the Class of 1947 announced the birth of a baby daughter, Diane, to his wife, Mrs. Ethel Dennis at Wilmington, Ohio. Both daughter, weighing in at 8 pounds two ounces, and mother are doing well. So is Max, everything considered. Cigars are available at the Supply Store.

In addition, President Gaines is celebrating the arrival of a grandson, Francis Pendleton Gaines, III.

Large Turnout At First Meeting Of Glee Club

Activities to be Limited To Campus and Trips To Neighboring Schools

At the organization meeting of the wartime Washington and Lee Glee Club last Wednesday night, a total of 23 men turned out, which was considerably more than anticipated. Mr. Francis Drake, temporarily at VMI as a chemistry instructor, who is acting as the director of the Club, explained to the gathering the conditions under which the Glee Club would have to labor and, before breaking up, had placed the men according to their voice range into one of the bass or tenor sections.

Since the size of the Club restricts the liberal use of the official name, "Washington and Lee Glee Club," and since transportation and other wartime conditions affect its getting about, its activities will have to be confined to the neighboring girls' colleges and to our own activities on the campus. Mr. Drake said he felt that this should not hamper its success.

The one first tenor, three second tenors, ten first basses, and eight second basses, plus any other student who missed the first meeting but who is interested in joining, will assemble next Friday (note the change of date), next Friday, October 6, at the Lambda Chi house at 7:15 o'clock.

Announcement

Mid-quarter reports will be ready for distribution at the Registrar's office on Wednesday, October 4.

Set Starts This Friday; Ticket Sales Encouraging Student Aid Requested

Opening Dances this year at the University, though not as colorful as in past days, will usher in the start of the 1944-45 social season for Washington and Lee. The set will start with an informal affair this Friday evening at 10, and will last through 2 in the morning. On Saturday night the dance will be a formal one from 9 till 12. Music for the entire set will be furnished by "The Vagabonds," an ideal orchestra for such an affair, who hail from Lynchburg. Leader Angelo Perry, Vocalist Tony Beaton, and the rest of the ensemble were well received at University dance sets last year. Their theme, "Music that's right—styled from sweet to swing" should liven Doremus Gymnasium no end.

Jack Crowder, Dance Chairman, has announced that ticket sales have been encouraging thus far with about seventy couples expected along with VMI cadets who will be welcome. The price of tickets, including the federal amusement tax, is \$6.60. A Decorations Committee which includes Wilcox, Jones, and Wright will prepare the Gymnasium on Thursday evening. Dancers will be greeted by the University colors—blue and white—arranged in desirable decoration schemes. Cooperation of the student body to aid in decorating is urgently requested by the Dance Committee. Student aid last year did much to make those dances successful.

Invitations to act as chaperones for Openings have been extended to Dr. and Mrs. Gaines; Dr. and Mrs. Tucker; Dr. and Mrs. Desha; Col. and Mrs. Godshalk; Mr. and Mrs. Tolley; Mr. and Mrs. Lothery; Dean and Mrs. Gilliam; Mr. and Mrs. Latture; Mrs. Kinnear; Maj. and Mrs. Boccock; Dr. and Mrs. Bean; Dean and Mrs. Williams; Dr. and Mrs. Munger; and Dr. and Mrs. Flick.

Hollins Dance

Tom Lee wishes to inform the Washington and Lee student body that the Director of Invitations has written inviting the Washington and Lee men to a dance given for the Hollins Freshmen by the Sophomores on Saturday, October 14.

All men interested must leave their names with Tom Lee not later than next Thursday.

Wartime successor to The Ring-tum Phi

The Columns

Serving the University Community

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T. M. Wright.....Managing Editor
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Saturday, September 30, 1944

The All-American Game

With the falling of autumn leaves and the blowing of that West Wind bringing with it that certain tinge of coldness of which it is so typical, we are not long in realizing that the season of the pigskin has loomed into focus. Out in the spacious expanses of some field, or backyard, or street—wherever that might be—the shouts and cries of boys and girls reverberate throughout the air, as the old, familiar cowhide is tossed, booted and circulated among those concerned—and usually not until the evening sun has reluctantly and slowly sunk away does this happy merriment cease, and the somewhat battered cowhide is placed in an insignificant corner—until the following day.

Football is a grand game. Perhaps if it wasn't played in winter it wouldn't be so well liked; but what a wonderful feeling it is to warm your body on a cold day, to stir your blood, to form colorful rose-splotches on your once-pale cheeks! Yes, there is indeed something unique about this sport—something that has made it the greatest of all American games, one that has brought hoppiness to young and old alike. How we love to play whenever we can! How we enjoy gathering around the radio and listening to a game, imagining that we are out there playing ourselves, and how we enjoy making bets with our friends as to the outcome of some particular game! But what we probably enjoy most of all is to become associated in the fanfare and celebration centering around an actual football game—the rousing marches of the band, the loud shouting and yelling of an excited crowd, the ringing of cow-bells, the blowing of horns, the blaring public address system, bottle throwing, pennant waving, the activities of coed cheer leaders, the screams of some poor pop-corn or peanut salesman, the colorful and gaudy uniforms of the opposing teams, the thud of a booted football, the joy of watching it sail through the air as if pulled by a string, a good-looking date at your side—yes, how we do enjoy being in such an atmosphere.

But such pleasures will doubtless be fewer in this oncoming season. Most colleges are unable, due to lack of students and training personnel, to provide a football team, and those that do have one will in all probability be disappointed at its prowess, but at any rate, the spirit of the game is firmly embedded in us; we will continue to appreciate it.

And so, as another season presents itself, we look with enthusiasm to the games to be played, to the fun that we will have in playing the sport ourselves, and at the same time, we also yearn for our boys to come home—in order that they might not only share, but also aid us in the coming season—to make it a truly unforgettable one!

Show Team Time

By "Bama" and Dave Guthrie

As mid-quarters are forgotten, we will again resume our usual pilgrimages to that local center of entertainment—the State. On Sunday and Monday, Laraine Day and Alan Marshall in **Bride by Mistake**. This is slick, frothy amusement with the setting in Santa Barbara, and our star, one of several heroes just back from over-tle rich girl" who doesn't want to be married for her moola, gives birth to fresh, rich comedy combined with slight touches of drama. The same old outline, but the story prospers in the telling and the script contains better dialogue than the average. SEE.

That man is here again—meaning Edward G. Robinson—with Ruth Warrick in **Mr. Winkle Goes to War**. The trials of the G.I. have been approached from every angle but this one. This is the story of the man of 44 who is taken into the army just before his "brain child" begins to bring in the moola. Edward G. is not up to his past proficiency, but gives a very good performance. TRY IT.

Thursday, Friday and Saturday, we have a picture that needs no introduction. Katherine Hepburn and Walter Huston in **Dragon Seed**. This picture is one of the best we will have the privilege of seeing in some time. The story of the Chinese before and after the "invader" takes possession. DON'T MISS.

The Lyric again brings us the young of our time in **Delinquent Daughters**, with June Carlson and Fifi D'Orsay. This is just as bad as the other two, but with this one we get a suicide, several holdups, and a couple of murders. Stay at home and think about what a good time you are going to have on October 6 and 7.

Wednesday brings back one of the few pictures which are not over-run with bit-players. Tallulah Bankhead and William Bendix in **Lifeboat**. Miss Bankhead (also of Alabama) gives one of her greatest performances in this pic. Those of you who saw it at the State will want to see it again. If you haven't seen it, DON'T MISS.

That girl with those Ohhhhhh eyes, Ann Sheridan, and that man with "that" hair, Dennis Morgan, come back on Thursday in **Shine on Harvest Moon**. A great musical with comedy, songs, girls, and a slight touch of drama. SEE.

Friday and Saturday with the boys who ride the range in **Fugitive from Sonora**, with Don Barry and Lynn Merrick. They tell me that **Haunted Harbor** is on too. I feel sure that all of us will have other plans on Friday and Saturday. If not, see a doctor.

(Continued on page four)

In a Manner of Writing

By Henry Burglum Davis

The average person, if he were asked the primary ingredient that goes into the making of a university, would probably in reply say something that could be boiled down to the one word, "ideas." For it is generally accepted, though not actively propagated, that the creation and nurturing of ideas is the purpose of the heavy endowments and the shiny marble halls of Siwash. The intention was, as every right-living senator or industrialist will tell you, that "thinking" should be the first function of college men. And, after he has told you, every right-living senator or industrialist (or college professor) will promptly forget all about it; for he knows that what **should** be, happens NOT to be. Whatever may be the first function of college men, and there are myriads of opinion on that score, "thinking" certainly is not it.

The "thinking" we are discussing is the intellectual kind. But that word "intellectual" cuts college students to the quick. No college man wants to be a damned intellectual. God forbid! The intellectual is a longhair! The intellectual is a clip! None of that for us. Intellectual stay away from our door!

(Continued on page four)

Men About Town . . .

This past Saturday saw the maiden voyage of what should rightly belong in a scrap pile. An antiquated Ford astonished the farmers of Rockbridge as it whizzed over the road to Staunton with Oder, Needham, Glasgow, and Merrin. When the brave crew reached Mary Baldwin, they got out and kissed earth. That's about the only thing they did over at Baldwin. Needham reports that his date was enough for him to move to another state, since she also comes from Kentucky. Merrin claims his gal ran a close second. Then the fellows headed back to Lexington after making out their last will and testament. How they ever got back, no one can figure out, but all in all it took 17 gallons of gas—10 of which ran out on the highway. A heavy guard is being maintained up at Jackson Park where the "General" is kept in recluse. Latest word has it that Oder is planning to install jet propulsion in his pride and joy for the long trip over the mountains to Lynchburg. Parachutes should be standard equipment for such a venture.

We hit Sweet Briar again last weekend only to find the place half deserted—the gals were over in Wahoo land looking for "dates" and a free football game. However, "Beezie" came through again for Taylor's classmates and all were happy. In the afternoon, D. Stuart displayed for the boys a gal from Gotham town who models for Conover—quite a knockout. Neal McNeill, good old boy from Tulsa, had a good time making grimaces at Wahoos and flexing his muscles at the same time. The band out at Oakwood still sounded like those tonettes the SPS lads attempt to play. On October 28, VMI plays the Wahoos in what should be a bang up game at Lynchburg Stadium. Let's all make an effort to get over there and back the "keydets" to a win.

Swami Wright has been putting on advanced psychology lectures for the boys out Lambda Chi way. McWhorter was last seen in a hypnotic state heading for class—or does he always act that way? Mosbacher returned to campus from New York after sailing a neat race in the International Cup events at Larchmont. He sent Gaulding sailing in that football game on Wednesday!

With VMI dances this weekend, a few Minks will attend; others are forming Sweet Briar and Hollins teams, while the rest will try and earn their letters on the late date team. Good hunting all around, fellas.

World of Sports . . .

By Warren G. Merrin

Spirit was suddenly injected into the participants in the intramural football tournament quite easily by director "Cy" Twombly when he announced that the University would award blue sweaters of the same type as those awarded to varsity athletes, without letters, of course, to each member of the winning team. A similar arousal of enthusiasm greeted Dean Gilliam's invitation to the winning basketball team to attend a dinner he intends to give in their honor.

Opening the pigskin parade, the SAE's trounced the Lambda Chi outfit by a twenty to nothing margin. Although they tried gallantly and displayed a wide assortment of potentially effective plays, McNeil's boys were no match for their opponents, and their only apparent threat occurred when Breedin intercepted an SAE pass and threatened to break away for a touchdown. Although the SAE's gained frequently, they did not, however, do so easily, and they made two of their three touchdowns on intercepted passes, one by Eacho and one by Lee. Their final score was made on a short run by Lee, following the set-up play, a long pass from Lee to Eacho.

The brilliant Tommy Lee also performed well at place-kicking his team's conversions. His first two attempts were faultless, and his failure to make good the third was caused by a bad pass from the center.

Blocking by both teams appeared to be listless, and both lines appeared to be made of tissue paper when they were on the offensive. To all outward appearances, the team that proves successful in outplaying the defensive line will emerge the victors.

Basketball coach Harry K. "Cy" Young, recently returned to the W&L campus, has announced that varsity court practice will begin on Tuesday, October 10, and a satisfactory number of candi-

dates are expected to report for the initial workouts. Practices will be held only twice weekly for at least the remainder of the fall quarter. Leading the parade of prospects will be Doug Pitts, a transfer from Richmond and captain of the Spider Freshman Five last year; Brent Breedin, high scorer of last year's Brigadiers; Harrison Eacho, a February freshman with some experience in amateur league basketball; Tom Lee; Bob Needham, a freshman with a great deal of high school experience; and various and sundry assorted basket-eers.

Staff Meeting

In pursuance of editorial policy, Editor Don Hillman announced the calling of a meeting of both the editorial and business staffs of **The Columns** on October 10, Tuesday evening at seven o'clock, at the Phi Kappa Psi house.

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Show Team Time

(Continued from page two)

Four late arrivals that might interest you this week: "The Shadow" knows, do you, that his sneering laugh pervades the ether every Sunday at 5:30-MBS? Dorothy

Thompson, famous woman commentator, airs her views on current affairs same night at 8:15-Blue. James Melton and Alec Templeton start a new fall series on Sunday at 9:30-CBS; they carry on in place of Fred Allen, who is working on films this season instead of radio. Eddie Cantor began last week with his weekly smile show, Wed., 9-NBC.

Two football games are scheduled for network broadcast today: the Notre Dame-Pittsburgh game at 1:45-MBS and the Army-North Carolina game at 2:30-NBC and CBS. The World Series will take off Wednesday, aired over MBS (which probably includes WLVA for us). Don Dunphy and Bill Slater do the play-by-play trick, with Bill Corum handling the color. Clare Booth Luce speaks tonight at 8:30-Blue, for Dewey.

The renewal of "The Shadow" this week causes me to mention several other mystery-thrill shows every week. There's "Crime Doctor" on Sun. at 8:30-CBS. A regular 5-a-week thriller is "I Love a Mystery" by Carleton Morse, with tolling bells, sirens, et al, Mon. thru Fri. at 7-CBS. "Counter Spy," our ace espionage man, is a Mon. night feature at 9-Blue. "The Mystery Theater" is a Tues. night favorite, coming at 9-NBC; we called your attention the other week to "Suspense" on Tues. at 8-CBS. "Gang Busters" offer Fri. night chills, served at 9-Blue.

In a Manner of Writing

(Continued from page two)

Of course, the intellectual may be a fake with no more running around in his gray matter than in that of his detractor's. That is often the case in this age of pseudo-everything. But it is not the reason the intellectual has been drawn so unfavorably (compare him with "the young man with initiative," for instance). The brief against him has been prepared formidably; it is too much trouble to do original thinking, therefore, make university training a purely social distinction, and original thought will be unnecessary and undesirable.

The university is the citadel of convention. It is so much simpler for everyone that way. Only a very few protest—those who carry the spirit of the nineteenth cen-

tury in their veins. They ask, and they have the right, even if they are making nuisances of themselves, are you supposed to learn at college? Let no one be mistaken about it, the answer is "yes," you are expected to learn at college; but **not too much, not too much.**

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