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News Bureau
Washington and Lee University
Lexington, Virginia

immediate release

LEXINGTON, April 00 -- _____ students from _____ will take part in Washington and Lee University's 1956 Democratic Mock Convention as delegates when it meets April 30 and May 1.

The Convention, a Washington and Lee tradition since 1908, is held every ~~four~~ presidential election year for the party out of power. Six out of ten previous conventions, students have correctly pre-nominated the bona fide choice.

Several times in the past, key speakers have used the Convention as a means of making a major party statement. Students hope that this year's key-note speaker, Alben W. Barkley, the man who made "Veep" a household word, will follow this pattern.

The Convention starts with a "kick-off" parade 2 p. m. April 30. Attention this year should focus on the New Jersey delegation's main float that will carry Sharon Kay Ritchie, Miss America of 1956.

Classes at Washington and Lee will be suspended for the two days that the Convention is in session. During the Convention, delegates follow, as closely as can be ascertained, the feelings of the Democrats in the states they represent. Constant contact is maintained between the student and the actual state chairmen in an effort to make the Convention as realistic as possible.

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This will be the first time since 1932, when they were right with Franklin D. Roosevelt, that students will have an opportunity to pre-nominate a Democrat.

Another Democrat was the Convention's biggest success. Students nominated John W. Davis, a "darkhorse," only to have their choice confirmed by the actual ~~delegation~~ convention on the 104th ballot.

Joe Doakes will be on the Virginia delegation; John Smith on the West Virginia delegation; Pete Nothing, Michigan; Earl Nobody, California; etc.

Appointments to the delegations were made by Carl Swanson, chairman of the Mock Convention, and Wiley Wright, state delegations chairman.