

N. D. Smithson

# The Ring-tum Phi

BY THE STUDENTS AND FOR THE STUDENTS

VOL. XXI

WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY, TUESDAY, JANUARY 8, 1918

NO. 13

## A QUESTIONNAIRE TO BE SENT TO EVERY ALUMNUS

### Ring-tum Phi and University Try to Get Complete War Information

A thorough campaign to secure definite information about every Washington and Lee man in the nation's service is being inaugurated this term by the Ring-tum Phi with the cooperation of the University. It is hoped in the fairly near future to arrange a regular correspondence service from every cantonment in the United States through which Washington and Lee men now fighting for their country may be kept continually in touch with their University and with each other.

The plan is first to mail practically every living alumnus a "questionnaire" to be filled out and returned, giving all essential details about the alumnus if he is in the United States service. His branch in the service, his home address, the date of enlistment, rank, present station and address and other information are called for. Through this means the Ring-tum Phi hopes to be able to publish news of every W. and L. man now on the University's roll of honor.

The other part of the plan which will require a somewhat longer time to be worked out is to find in every cantonment in the United States a Washington and Lee man who will serve as Ring-tum Phi correspondent where he is stationed. In this way a regular news service will be maintained from the alumni now in the nation's service.

The Ring-tum Phi has formed a new Military and Alumni department, whose head will take charge of the work of collecting and compiling this information in cooperation with the Registrar of the University. The war information "questionnaire" are now being mailed to all alumni.

## FIVE STUDENT OFFICERS ARE NOT RETURNING

### Cole, Pierotti, Blocker, Graham and Lombardi Not Back

The war besides working some havoc among the students at Washington and Lee, has gone into the list of student body officers. Those who will not return this term are W. B. F. Cole, Executive Committeeman from the Senior Law class and member of the Athletic Council, Al Pierotti, president of the Athletic Council, J. C. Blocker, manager of the Calyx, Mercer Graham, president of the Final Ball, and Charles Lombardi, cheer leader. Cole's place will be filled by his own class, but since the Athletic Council has turned over its work to the Executive Committee for the basketball season at least, it is hardly probable that these vacancies will be filled. The Executive Committee has already posted a call for candidates to fill the places left vacant by Blocker and Graham, and if Lombardi does not return it will probably choose his successor in the same way.

## W. & L. FACES HARD SEASON WITH BUT ONE VETERAN

### SCHEDULE COMPLETE BETHEL HAS TRIDENT

### Manager Paxton Has Arranged 13 Games For Generals, 11 on Home Floor

Since the student body massmeeting of December 12, Manager Paxton of the 1917 basketball team, backed by the enthusiastic support of the entire student body and subscriptions amounting to approximately three hundred dollars, has at last completed a very satisfactory schedule.

The list of games corresponds closely to that of last year, when the Generals' championship quint went through thirteen victories without a let-up. This season, however, no contest could be arranged with either West Virginia Wesleyan or the University of West Virginia who are generally met, and Georgia is substituted for Vanderbilt.

The features of the season are the trips to Lynchburg and Danville and the Davidson game at home when the entire corps of V. M. I. cadets will be present. The Red and Black of Georgia will oppose the White and Blue in Lynchburg February 2, and tough opposition may be expected. Last year Georgia won every game except her last with Atlanta Athletic Club which she had already defeated once before earlier in the season. Coach Raftery states that it was the best basketball team he had ever seen. "Bill" however, did not see the Washington and Lee champs last year. Although the Generals have lost the stars of last year, it may reasonably be supposed that Georgia is little better off, and the game should be a "ripper" from every standpoint.

No special train can be arranged because of war conditions, but excursion rates will be granted and a big subscription dance with Wright's orchestra attending will be given by the local alumni after the game.

In Danville the Generals meet the University of North Carolina on February 16. Last year the Tarheels were trimmed on the local court by the goodly score of 40 to 23.

Continued on page 2

### Practice Begun Yesterday, and Several New Men Are Showing Up Well

The 1918 basketball season was formally opened with the first practice which was held in the Doremus Memorial Gymnasium Monday afternoon, and the thump of the sphere can be heard daily as the candidates for the team cavort over the floor under the direction of Coach William C. Raftery.

Here again as was the case in football the effect of the war is felt, for of the six monogram wearers of the 1917 team and the ten members of the squad only Bethel, Fain, McCain, and Bryant answered the call yesterday. However even as late as the beginning of the holiday period it was thought that at least three monogram men would be on the scene, Captain Graham, ex-Captain Pierotti and Bethel, but Graham was unable to return and Pierotti has entered the military service.

The first game will be Saturday night with Hampden-Sidney, but owing to the late start a tentative line-up has not yet been made. There are several new men in college with good records, among them being Dusch and Moss of Randolph-Macon, Fox of Chattanooga High, and Ferguson of Bluefield, W. Va., High. Besides these the following are doing good work and showing up well: Bryan, Cottingham, Daiuto, Hindry, Pool, Scanlon, Storey, Todd and Trotter.

## Basketball Subscriptions Are Due This Week—Pay Your Dollar to

- M. W. Paxton
- B. F. Tillar
- T. W. Gilliam
- G. P. Wilson
- G. G. Gregg
- T. R. Nelson
- B. M. Campbell
- W. F. Barron
- C. K. Gilchrist
- J. G. Evins
- R. B. James
- B. M. Campbell

W. Bucy Trigg ex-'18 was a visitor at the Phi Delta Theta house on Thursday and Friday. He left Lexington Friday for an aviation training school.

## CAMPAIGN FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS IS PROVING SUCCESS

### Alumni Have Contributed \$4,780 to Help University in Period of War

"A Financial Emergency and Its Remedy." This is the title of a little booklet which President Smith recently has written and sent to every living alumnus of Washington and Lee, and which has already brought to the University subscriptions totalling \$4,780. It is a call to the sons of this institution to rally to her support during the period of diminished attendance and financial stringency brought on by the world war.

Attached to the leaflet is a return postal whose wording explains the new plan:

Appreciating the great work done for the nation by the institution which Washington founded and Lee developed; recognizing also the economic crisis brought on largely by her own patriotic devotion now confronting such an independent cultural institution of higher learning, I desire to restore to her treasury for four years the fees—the tuition fees—of one enlisted student, amounting to \$100.00—\$60.00 each year, that her organization may be preserved intact and her usefulness unimpaired during the period of diminished attendance due to the war. I hereby authorize the treasurer to draw on me—call on me—for the above sum on \_\_\_\_\_, 1918, and on the same date for 1919, 1920, and 1921.

Copies of the bulletin were also sent to a large number of the parents of former students of Washington and Lee.

The Ring-tum Phi takes pleasure in

Continued on page 3

## VANDERBILT CHANCELLOR TO SPEAK FOUNDERS' DAY

### Dr. J. H. Kirkland Will Make Address at Annual Occasion on Lee's Birthday

Chancellor J. H. Kirkland of Vanderbilt University will address the University at the regular Founders' Day exercises which will be held the nineteenth of this month in the Chapel. His subject will be, "The American Spirit."

The celebration of a Founders' Day annually at Washington and Lee was inaugurated last year by formal action of the board of trustees, and the nineteenth of January, Lee's birthday, chosen as the most appropriate time for such an occasion. This, therefore, is the second celebration of this date, the address last year being delivered by Secretary of War Newton D. Baker, a Washington and Lee alumnus.

These exercises will constitute the regular University Assembly for January. They will be preceded on the night of the eighteenth by the semi-annual meeting of the board of trustees.

## BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

- Jan. 11—Hampden-Sidney.....Lexington
- 14—Lynchburg Athletic Club (Pending)....Lexington
- 18—Davidson College.....Lexington
- 21—Va. Christian College.....Lexington
- 25—Lebanon Valley.....Lexington
- 29—Elon College.....Lexington
- Feb. 2—University of Georgia.....Lynchburg
- 6—William and Mary.....Lexington
- 9—Roanoke College.....Lexington
- 12—Trinity College of N. C.....Lexington
- 16—Univ. of North Carolina.....Danville
- 20—Univ. of Tennessee.....Lexington
- 22—A. and E. of North Carolina.....Lexington

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### VOTES TO CONTINUE ALL INTERCOLLEGIATE SPORTS

National Collegiate Athletic Association,  
Backed by Baker and Daniels, De-  
cides Athletics Help the War

(From the New York Times)

Brimful of enthusiasm for the con-  
tinuance of all kinds of sports as the  
greatest aid the colleges can give the  
government in these days of stress, the  
National Collegiate Athletic Association  
at its annual convention in New  
York decided to encourage intercolleg-  
iate competition and interest as many  
students as possible in physical train-  
ing, so that they will be able to serve  
their country in the best possible way  
on the battle lines.

This organization represents 164  
colleges and universities in every part  
of the United States. It spoke  
officially for a student body of more  
than 300,000 eager, patriotic young  
men, who above everything else want  
to fit themselves physically for the  
grim task of war.

Secretary of War Baker and Secre-  
tary Daniels of the Navy both sent  
personal messages to this large gath-  
ering of college professors advising  
them to keep the athletic spirit of  
our colleges alive.

Nearly every college in the country  
with the exception of Harvard, Yale,  
and Princeton, will keep up intercol-  
legiate competition. Messages from  
Harvard and Yale expressed the senti-  
ment that the great athletic carnival  
which they have been accustomed to  
hold in the past are out of place in  
these times of war. They heartily  
agree with the organization in keep-  
ing up spirited competition and will  
continue to give all the time and at-  
tention which were formerly given to  
Varsity activities, to military training  
and a wider participation in sports  
than has ever been known at these un-  
iversities. But the gay, colorful  
demonstrations of intercollegiate joy  
in the great coliseums at New Haven  
and Cambridge will be seen no more  
until after the war.

#### RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

The resolutions in relation to the  
continuance of sports at all the col-  
leges next season are as follows:

First.—That athletic sports be made  
subservient to the work of military  
preparation and be made therefore  
an essential factor in military train-  
ing.

Second.—That intercollegiate and  
inter-colonial schedules be arranged  
for so long a time and so far as na-  
tional and local conditions permit, and  
that all possible encouragement be  
given to the development of intramur-  
al sports, with a view to promoting  
the participation of all students.

Third.—That professional coaches  
and the expenses incidental thereto  
be reduced to a minimum.

Fourth.—That there be no pre-sea-  
son coaching or practice, no scouting,  
and no training table.

Fifth.—That the number of officials  
at intercollegiate games and their  
fees be kept as low as possible.

Sixth.—And further, be it resolved  
that this association reaffirms its be-  
lief in the eligibility rules which it  
has already endorsed, including the  
freshmen rule, and therefore recom-  
mends that there be no lowering of  
eligibility standards during the pres-  
ent crisis.

#### Wanted—Law Catalogue for 1903

Judge M. P. Burks would like to  
obtain a copy of the Washington and  
Lee law catalogue for 1903 and would  
appreciate any information through  
which he can obtain a copy.

### W. & L. FACES HARD SEASON

Continued from page 1

The season opens Friday night with  
Hamptden-Sidney. Although the Gen-  
erals last year scored 32 points to  
their opponents' 18, the Presbyterians  
have returned four old men and prom-  
ise a formidable line-up. On the 14th,  
Randolph-Macon having cancelled, the  
Lynchburg Athletic Club will prob-  
ably furnish the opposition, but this  
has not been definitely arranged.

The next opponent will be the Dav-  
idson quint on the night of January  
18. On that night the cadets will  
be allowed over and a large crowd is  
expected to witness the game. Virg-  
inia Christian College is signed up for  
the 21st. Last year this team was  
overcome in the first game, 53 to 11.

On the 25th comes Lebanon Valley  
who furnished perhaps the best game  
of the year last season. They were  
defeated 24 to 14, but the game was  
in doubt until the last when several  
points were run up. Elon College,  
a new opponent, will come up on Jan-  
uary 29. This college furnishes a  
fast, scrappy five who will no doubt  
give a good account of themselves.

The team then travels to Lynchburg  
to meet Georgia. On the night of  
the first dance, February 6, the  
protoges of Coach H. K. Young, par-  
ticular scintillater on the Generals'  
quint last year, who form the William  
and Mary team, will perform before  
the fair sex and their escorts.

Roanoke College comes on February  
9. Roanoke was Southern champion in  
1916, but lost its first game in two  
years to W. and L. last winter by fif-  
teen points. No dope has been gotten  
on their present strength.

Trinity College follows with a good  
team on the 12th. With no football  
season their quint is always in mid-  
season form early in the year and is  
always a tough opponent. They lost  
last year by a scant two points 20  
to 18.

On the 16th the Generals again  
venture away from home this time to  
take on the representatives from  
North Carolina at Danville. The latter  
are quite strong and neither Blue and  
White team will have won until the  
game is over. Last year Carolina  
went down in defeat by a score of 40  
to 23.

Tennessee was defeated last year  
28 to 19 in an exciting game. It  
was the "big home game" and only  
by extra effort did the locals win.  
This quint comes to Lexington on  
February 20.

The season closes on the 22nd with  
A. and E. of North Carolina whom it  
may be remembered the Generals de-  
feated last winter 24 to 18, and who  
also fell for a defeat on the gridiron  
last fall on Wilson field.

A dansant for the benefit of Bas-  
ketball will be given by the Cotillion  
Club during the midwinter dances.

#### Cold Badly Damages Heating Plant at A. X. P. House

The cold spell during the holidays  
wrought considerable damage at the  
Alpha Chi Rho house, the heating  
system being completely frozen.  
Radiators were cracked and pipes all  
over the house burst. The trouble  
was caused by an airlock in the pipes  
which left considerable water in  
them, although the water had been  
turned off. The loss will amount to  
about \$200. Plumbers were able to  
get the house in fairly good repair by  
Sunday.

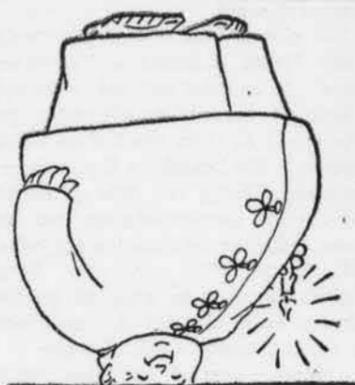
"Buck" Sweetland ex-'18 starred  
on the football team of the Second  
Naval district of the U. S. Naval  
reserve at Newport, R. I.

### WINTER TERM OPENS WITH MANY RETURNING LATE

Mr. B. F. Harlow Replies Dr. Dickey  
Who Has Entered Govern-  
ment Service

As is usually the case a large  
number of students preferred to re-  
main home for a couple extra days  
before returning to college after the  
holidays, although a fine is levied on  
those registering late. Many of  
those that did not register the first  
day paid their fines and put in claims  
for refunds. In a number of in-  
stances the congested traffic was re-  
sponsible for the tardiness. At the  
present time it is not possible to say  
how many of the students have decid-  
ed not to continue their college work  
and have consequently dropped out,  
but this number will probably not  
be very large.

In the faculty Dr. Dickey, asso-  
ciate professor of Physics and of  
Mathematics, has entered government  
service and his place has been taken  
in the Mathematics Department by  
Mr. B. F. Harlow, M. A. '99, of  
Roswell, N. M. No other changes  
have occurred, but the next draft may  
work havoc among instructors and  
assistants.



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## CHRISTMAS COLLEGIAN HAS EXCELLENT ESSAY

But Critic Finds Fault with Some Sections of Last Magazine

BY J. L. M.

The Christmas number of the Southern Collegian made its appearance upon the campus after the final issue of the Ring tum Phi for last year and, although, some weeks have elapsed, a review of this splendid issue is not out of place at the present time.

The editorial, "The War and the Colleges" was most appropriate, not to mention good that it contains for excellent thought. The editor in a very masterly way outlines the question of practical patriotism as it is presented to every man.

"Cor Cordium" and "Twas Ever Thus" are short poems inspired by the reckless fidelity of two young lovers. The thought and form of the poems are worthy of mention and give a promise of greater things to be expected from the ambitious young psalmist. Unfortunately the present idea of a short story has deviated from that originally intended by its first exponents. To be successful, a short story does not have to breathe of the spirit of suggestiveness. "Innocence" is unworthy of the Southern Collegian and rather unconventional for college magazines in its subject matter. "Reformed," another short story, is very cleverly written but the plot is rather juvenile and one that would better suit the first inward doubtings of the prep school lad than furnish thought for the well developed mind of college psychologist. Perhaps the stella contribution to this number is the essay, "Conscription in the North During the Civil War." Especially interesting at this time is the article, because the draft in the Civil War furnished the nucleus upon which our present draft was formulated. The article is cleverly, concisely, and interestingly written and ranks with the best articles written for the Collegian.

E. M. Bell is before us "Spotlight" this month, and well he deserves to be there. As impartial as the Encyclopedia, is the enumeration of his various achievements in college. The joke is really found in the joke section this time for there are no jokes. This is a relief to some and a disappointment to others. The exchanges and the brief items from other colleges are very interesting.

## CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS FIND LEXINGTON QUITE TRANQUIL

Students Remaining Over Find it Hard to Pass the Time

Only a few students remained in Lexington for the holidays but those few realize the full meaning of the poet's words, "and all the air a solemn stillness holds." The even tenor of their placid existence was broken only by the dances at V. M. I. and the night vigil at the Lyric. Some of those remaining became impatient and wandered away in the direction of Washington, Baltimore, Buena Vista, etc. while others sought solace in the complications of pool and billiards and the music of McCrum's. Before long most of them were wishing that the vacation was over, and promising themselves faithfully that next Christmas, if it did not find them "over there" would find them snoring snugly at home, contriving a scheme whereby skeptical parents could be convinced beyond a doubt that "E" means excellent.

## SUBSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN IS PROVING SUCCESSFUL

Continued from page 1

printing below the names of those who have so far responded, and the total amounts pledged by each. It will keep the campus informed of the further progress of this beneficent enterprise.

### ALUMNI:

F. W. Abney '69, Charleston, W. Va.	\$400.00
Wm. A. Bell, '95, New Orleans, La.,	240.00
E. C. Day '83, Helena, Mont.	400.00
D. H. Huffaker '91, El Paso, Tex.	400.00
E. S. McCord '88, Seattle, Washington	400.00
Wm. A. MacCorkle '78, Charleston, W. Va.	1,500.00
Harrison B. Smith, '84, Charleston, W. Va.	60.00
Albert Steves Jr., '06, San Antonio, Texas	400.00

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

John S. Munce, Richmond, Va.	200.00
Mortimer N. Wisdom, New Orleans, La.,	\$240.

### THE FACULTY

Henry Louis Smith, president	240.00
Paul M. Penick, treasurer	240.00

PARENTS OF FORMER STUDENTS	
J. H. Blackford, Bardane, Va.	\$60.00

Total \$4,780.00

Most of the above is payable in two, three or four installments, the last falling due in 1921.

It is hoped that the above is only a beginning and that many more names may be added in the near future.

## "WAIT TURN IN DRAFT" SAYS W. AND L. ALUMNUS

Maintains That it is Better from Both Individual and National Standpoint

In a letter from a Washington and Lee law graduate of last year to Dean Campbell, men over twenty-one are urged to wait their regular turn in the draft, as giving them better chances for commissions and advancements of all kinds. The letter runs in part as follows:

"I was bent on getting into the naval service. I spent a week in Washington at that time, investigating thoroughly the whole situation from the point of view of myself and other fellows situated in approximately the same conditions. The overwhelming consensus of the best advice that I could obtain was, that it is far preferable for the individual as well as for the successful prosecution of the plans of the government, that men without the necessary training from now on stand a better chance of getting into the O. R. C training camps after they have been drafted than after enlistments, and that they will stand a far better chance of receiving commissions,—all of which of course is well known now."

Statistics recently compiled show that nearly half the college students of New England have enlisted in some kind of war service. Out of the 20,000 in the 20 New England colleges 5,249 joined the colors immediately and 3,000 went into agricultural and other branches of war work.

At the University of Michigan more than half of the fraternity houses have closed because so many men are in the service.

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# The Ring-tum Phi

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All matters of business should be addressed to the Business Manager, and all other matters should come to the Editor-in-Chief.

We are always glad to publish any communication that may be handed to us. A letter, to receive consideration, must contain the name and address of the writer, and these will not be published if the writer objects to the publication.

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## The Next Three Months

Since the Ring-tum Phi last appeared many things have engrossed the minds and hearts of our readers. The exams with all their terrors are now a thing of the past, but on the other hand so are the Christmas holidays. And now the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighteen has begun and the second lap in the educational struggle at Washington and Lee is on.

The winter term has many things in store, and perhaps some events we know not of, for war and Wilson can work almost anything. There will be a basketball team in accordance with the wishes of the war department, and thanks to the loyal support of the student body. It takes loyalty of most of us to dig voluntarily down into our pockets, usually nearly empty, in order that the welfare, progress, and honor of the University does not suffer; and three hundred members of the W. and L. student body at the last mass meeting showed the true spirit of the Generals.

But there will be other things besides basketball, and at the present time everything must be subordinated and referred to the basic question, "Will it help win the war?" Every man must give his wholehearted support to everything, no matter how small, which can aid this country and her allies to triumph over the enemies of democracy. The Ring-tum Phi simply mentions again four cardinal principles which should govern thoughts and actions on the campus this year,—gravity, simplicity, economy, loyalty. "But the greatest

of these is loyalty," for] all else must follow from it.

Those out for basketball should give their best for the University and the country; those taking military training should see that their interest during the cold winter days does not lag, realizing the value their work may be when they join the soldiers fighting against entrenched autocracy. And through all the outside activities of a college existence the student should not forget the fundamental purpose for which he is here, and make the most of his opportunity to acquire knowledge.

America is in danger, and calls for aid from every man in this great free nation. Democracy in our country and the rest of the world must be free after this war, and Washington and Lee men must do their share, whatever and whenever it is.

Reverting to loyalty again, those alumni who have contributed to help the financial stringency of their Alma Mater in these times have certainly shown the true W. and L. spirit. May there be more like them.

## "And a Little Child Shall Lead Them"

The Ring-tum Phi desires to call attention to the letter appearing in this issue from "A Freshman," and to make a few comments on the same subject. In our opinion the "Freshman" has struck it pretty nearly right in his communication, and the wonder of it is that the present rushing system has been allowed to endure so long. We do not believe the system is satisfactory to anyone, the fraternities, the Freshmen, or the University, and some day, we hope soon, it must be changed.

When perhaps the greatest influence on a man's college career is determined by a letter of recommendation and a hazy impression of a few hours or at most a few days, it is impossible that things should be satisfactory to those concerned. Sometimes it is all right; sometimes the new man is known and vouched for by members of the fraternity; sometimes he has a good recommendation from a member of the fraternity elsewhere,—but this is all. Sometimes everything turns out all right, but, and in too many cases to speak well for the system, things turn out all wrong.

Another defect in the rushing system which our writer failed to mention is the impression, often very strong, which is given to the new man at college who is "rushed" by one or more fraternities. He gets the idea that all college life is similar to that which he sees during the first week, and is apt to forget the primary purpose for which he came,—to acquire an education. Another idea too often thrust into the head of a Freshman is a mistaken conception of his relation to the rest of the University, and a determination to live up to his name. Of course this may be wiped out by methods now known to such men, but still that is not the best way to get at things.

How should the defects of our fraternity rushing system be remedied? The present pan-hellenic rules forbid the initiation of a man until the second term and then with certain restrictions in regard to necessary scholarship attainments. There may be differences of opinion as to what would be a satisfactory solution of the problem, but the pan-hellenic council could beyond a doubt find some more agreeable arrangement if it cared to take the initiative. A great many colleges have adopted rules forbidding fraternities to approach new men on fraternity matters at all until after the first term, or some even until after the first year. This seems to us to be the most feasible solution of the problem, for it would be a comparatively easy step from the present system to abolish all pledging until the second term.

Such a change would have great advantages over the method now followed, and would be more satisfactory to all parties. The fraternities would have plenty of time to know the men whom they are considering, and the Freshman likewise would have the opportunity to select the crowd with which he preferred to associate. The unsettled conditions attendant to the first week or so of college would be avoided, and so no one, faculty, fraternity, or Freshman, could have cause to object.

## Changes in Editorial Staff

The war and other things have wrought several changes in the Ring-tum Phi staff since the last issue. W. S. Stevens and J. C. Blocker have withdrawn from college, the latter to enter the army, and W. P. MacTaggart has been appointed on the staff. F. T. Cole has been made Managing Editor, and A. B. Shepperson appointed to the new post of Military and Alumni Editor to take charge of the war information campaign being undertaken by the Ring-tum Phi. In this connection all of our readers are urged to turn in any information which they may possess about W. and L. men in the service of the United States in order that this department may be made a success and no one omitted from the University's roll of honor.

## LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

To the Editor of the Ring-tum Phi: The system of "rushing" a Freshman as it is practiced at Washington and Lee is certainly open to criticism, and this criticism is due to no prejudice of any kind upon the part of the writer, but is the result of personal experience.

A Freshman comes to college and it is largely a matter of chance whether he is "rushed" or not. If he dresses well, departs himself as a gentleman, and appears to be an agreeable fellow, he is probably "rushed;" and if the fraternity considering him has received a recommendation, then no efforts are spared toward the accomplishment of that end,—the pledging. Again if one or two other fraternities who have not received recommenda-

tions for a man are merely looking him over and showing him some attention, the chances are that he will be pledged to some fraternity, for others spurred to greater endeavor by the seeming hot competition, bid the Freshman without considering his true worth at all. Therefore I am strongly in favor of the abolition of this rushing system as it is now practiced at Washington and Lee for these and two following reasons.

First, rushing is in keeping with the dignity of the fraternity, and second it is instrumental in the destruction of the principles for which fraternities stand. Neither the prospective pledge nor the members have had time to become sufficiently acquainted with the character, standing, and moral habits of each other, to make the decision which must hold not only through the four years at college, but which constitute a life-long bond of friendship and brotherhood between them; and the chances of bagging a good man or getting into a good fraternity are over-balanced by the chances of disappointment in each.

Rushing therefore is not desirable, and it is my belief that if the fraternities could effect some interfraternity organization for the purpose of the abolition of this system it should be done. I feel that the fraternities themselves are not favorably inclined toward this condition of affairs, but they approach it very much in the light of "may the best man win, and the devil take the hindmost." I would suggest then that a pan-hellenic agreement be enforced that at least three months must elapse after matriculation before a Freshman can be approached.

Do away with the system of pledging, and when the prospect is approached let it be with the invitation to become a full-fledged member of the organization.

A FRESHMAN.

To the Editor of the Ring-tum Phi:

It was my pleasure to be in Lexington in September and see the football squad which was to represent W. and L. for the season, at practice, and I am frank to admit that it looked to me then that W. and L. would have the poorest team she has ever had, now at the close of the season I want to say that if any W. and L. team and coaches ever deserved the high praise and congratulations of both student body and alumni the 1917 football squad does. They have very appropriately been dubbed the "Fighting Generals" and right well have they earned that title.

Three cheers and a long yell for team, coaches, manager, and scrubs. We are proud of you one and all.

With best wishes, I am

Yours very truly,

DAN E. BROWN ex '90.  
San Marcos, Tex.

## On Other Campuses

Aviator Tex Marshall, who attended the ground school at Cornell, recently broke the altitude record for Ithica when he rose to a height of 15,000 feet.

A large campus skating rink is to be placed at the disposal of the students of McGill University on Jan. 9. The use of this rink is controlled by the student council.

The faculties of Bowdoin and Kansas have recently taken action to the effect of conferring degrees upon the Seniors who have left for military service provided that they were in good standing when they left the universities.

# The Ring-tum Phi

Tuesday, Jan. 8, 1918

## Social and Personal.

Johnny Sorrells ex-'18, who is a second lieutenant in the national army, spent the holidays in Lexington.

C. R. Stribling '17, who is teaching at Fishburne Military Academy, was in Lexington over Sunday.

Lieutenant O. W. Shelton from Camp Greene, S. C., visited his brother, C. M. Shelton in Lexington during the holidays.

John McChord took dinner at the White House last week while spending Christmas in Washington with his brother, Maj. W. C. McChord.

News has been received of the approaching marriage of Allein Beall ex-'18 to Miss Elizabeth Coolidge of Helena, Ark. Allein has been promoted to first lieutenant in artillery, national army, and will be remembered as manager-elect of football for 1917 when he entered a training camp last spring. He is a member of the A. T. O. fraternity.

Several members of the faculty took advantage of the Christmas holidays to steal away from Lexington. Dr. and Mrs. Stevens spent the time in Norfolk; Dr. Hancock and Prof. Tucker attended conventions in their educational department in Philadelphia, and Mr. Tucker spent part of the time in Danville; Dr. and Mrs. R. Granville Campbell went on a motor trip north through Baltimore; Prof. Humphreys visited his son and daughter-in-law in Washington; Dr. Hoyt went to Baltimore; and Dr. Ordeman visited his home in Frederick, Md.

### SEVERAL FRATERNITIES HOLD CONVENTIONS IN HOLIDAYS

National Conclaves of Phi Gamma Delta, Kappa Alpha, Alpha Chi Rho, and Phi Delta Theta

Several of the fraternities held their annual conventions during the holidays. Phi Gamma Delta held theirs in New York on the twenty-seventh, twenty-eight and twenty-ninth of December and the local chapter was represented by J. L. McChord, T. H. Pratt, and Prof. D. C. Humphreys. Kappa Alpha went to more southern climes and C. W. Moss represented Alpha chapter at Jacksonville.

G. T. Holbrook was the local delegate to the national convention of Phi Delta Theta at Indianapolis on December thirty-first, January first and second, and D. S. Noble attended the Alpha Chi Rho convention at New Haven.

### A Correction

In the football issue the names of Holmes Rolston and C. B. Hartley were inadvertently omitted from the list of men who remained on the football squad throughout the season.

### Co-op to Close Due to War

Owing to the removal of Mr. J. T. McCrum, the Financial Supervisor of the University Supply Store, Inc., to Washington, it has been decided by the management to close out the business until the close of the war. Most of the stock will be offered at a great reduction, much of it at cost. A great opportunity for students along many lines.

## FACULTY WILL GIVE CREDIT FOR MILITARY WORK AND EXAMINATION

"Military Science and Tactics" to Count One Point—Drill Now in Field House

At the meeting of the faculty held the seventeenth of December the following resolution in regard to military training was passed: "Resolved, That a value of one hour to count among the free electives be allowed during the session of 1917-18 for the satisfactory completion of the course in Military Science and Tactics, and that no credit be allowed for military drill."

This means that any man in the battalion, whether Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, or Senior, may get this point by taking the full course, or what is now called the officers' course which, in addition to the regular three drills per week, meets for a fourth drill or recitation period on Friday. Hereafter each Friday afternoon period drill will include some written work which will cover what is being done contemporaneously in the field, or in the Field House while the weather remains bad.

Any student who has not taken the military training up to the present may now take it up and be given credit for it if he successfully completes the course from now until the end of the present session. The military training course is conducted in the same manner as is any other course in the University. Upon the completion of the required amount of work and upon the recommendation of the Commandant the Junior or Senior is credited with his one point; the Sophomore is credited with his four points, here it is substitute for gymnasium work; and the Freshman is credited with two points towards the completion of the entire course.

With continuation of bad weather and with several inches of snow on the ground drills are being held in the Field House. Lack of space necessitates the drill of only one company at a time. Company A drilled yesterday, Company B will drill tomorrow, and Company C will drill on Thursday, this order being continued until the weather moderates and outside drill is possible. The indoor drill at present consists of some close order exercises and practice in throwing the hand grenades that are now on hand. Other grenades of a different type have been ordered but have not arrived. Those at present used are of the old round style. Those ordered are of an oblong shape and rather more recently used in actual warfare than the others.

No action toward getting guns for drill purpose has yet been taken although samples of dummy guns have been examined by those who have the military training in charge and one style selected and recommended by Major Edwards.

### Japanese Dancing at fourth Radcliffe Entertainment next Monday

Mr. and Mrs. Ongawa with Japanese dancing will feature the fourth of the Radcliffe series of entertainments in the Carnegie Library next Monday night. The entertainment will portray Japanese customs and is said to be one of the most attractive of the series.

This will be the fourth of a series of five productions given by the Radcliffe entertainers under the auspices of Miss Annie R. White. All receipts above the guarantee will go to the student pian fund.

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### DR. RILEY WILL CONDUCT HISTORY COURSE AT CAMP LEE

W. and L. Professor is Chosen by Washington Authorities to Lead School for Soldiers

Dr. Franklin L. Riley, professor of History, has been honored by the authorities at Washington by being given charge of the History work at Camp Lee. The government plans to offer in all of the cantonments of the country a course of lectures extending over a period of six weeks that will deal with the causes of the war and with the political system of the European nations. The purpose will be to educate the soldiers in recent European history in order that they may appreciate the better the justice of the cause in which they are fighting. These lectures on British, French, and German history will be purely optional, but it is expected that a large number of the men in the camps will welcome the chance to attend this course.

It was with gratification that Washington and Lee heard of the decision of the government to place the work at Camp Lee in the hands of the local history professor rather than in those of some other scholars in nearby institutions. By giving Washington and Lee this work, the authorities will bring the University into the eyes of the soldiers and at the end of the war this prominence will undoubtedly react to the benefit of Washington and Lee.

Professor Riley cannot afford to be absent from college for the entire six weeks, but expects to delegate part of the work to other members of the faculty whose work qualifies them for the task. The exact plans for the work have not been fully made as yet, according to Professor Riley, but by the time that the lectures are scheduled to begin all preparations will have been completed.

### W. & L. Men in the Nation's Service

(The Ring-tum Phi will welcome any information for this department from our readers.)

#### W. & L. Man Dies on Army Transport

News of what is perhaps the first death of a Washington and Lee man in the nation's service has been received, George M. Anderton '12 having died of tuberculosis on a transport bound for France. Anderton received a degree of bachelor of science here and was in the engineer corps of the army.

T. H. Stukes ex-'18, has been commissioned as a second lieutenant in the aviation branch of the signal corps at San Antonio, Tex.

Elliot M. Stewart ex-'18, who was commissioned from the second officers' training camp at Fort Ordlethorpe as a second lieutenant in field artillery, is stationed at Fort Sill, Okla.

A. G. Paxton '17, has been promoted to a first lieutenant in field artillery of the national army and is stationed at Camp Travis.

Lieutenant Robert B. McDougale ex-'18, who is stationed at Camp Sherman, Ohio, writes the Ring-tum Phi as follows: "The eighty-third Division song is sung to the tune of the 'Swing' and to the same words of which I wrote you before. Yesterday Teddy Roosevelt addressed the officers here and when, singing the song for his benefit, the line 'And we'll lay the ka'sei in the sod' was struck, one

of those characteristic, world-famous grins overspread his face."

W. H. Shirey '14, has finished the ground school in aviation at Atlanta, and has been sent to the flying school at Wichita Falls, Tex. He was one of the two honor graduates.

W. C. Armentrout '09 has enlisted in Battery A, 322nd Regiment, Field Artillery of the National Army, and is stationed at Camp Sherman, Ohio.

Edon Paul King '17 is a provisional second lieutenant of infantry.

Lawrence D. Lyle '17 is a second lieutenant of infantry, U. S. R.

Chas. C. Riticor '14 is a provisional second lieutenant.

Grady H. Forgy '17 is a second lieutenant of infantry, U. S. R.

John A. Lingle, Jr., '16 was commissioned a second lieutenant at the first training camp held at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Ind.

Walter W. Terry '15 is a second lieutenant of infantry, U. S. R.

Spencer Tunnell '11 is a first lieutenant of infantry, U. S. R.

Adrian Williamson '15 is a second lieutenant in the artillery reserve.

John H. Tucker Jr. '10 is a second lieutenant in the First Louisiana infantry.

### FIRE SLIGHTLY DAMAGES PHI KAPPA SIGMA HOUSE

Loss is Confined to Damage in One Room—Spark from Open Fire Causes Conflagration

The Phi Kappa Sigma house suffered considerably from fire on last Thursday morning when, during the absence of everyone from the house, a coal popped from the open fireplace of one of the upstairs rooms and ignited the carpet. This spread to the furniture and when the flames were finally discovered by a passerby who saw the smoke issuing from a window, the entire room was on fire. An alarm was immediately turned in and the fire extinguished with the chemical apparatus. Damage was confined almost solely to the one room in which the fire originated. The house was occupied by only one student at the time, the others not having returned from their vacations.

### STUDENT BODY VOTES TO FINANCE BASKETBALL

Season is Put in Charge of Executive Committee Backed by Resources of Student Body

The student body, through the Executive Committee, will run the basketball season, and stand behind its financial success. This was determined at a mass meeting on December 13, when the unfortunate financial condition of the Athletic Council was presented before the students and approximately three hundred dollars were pledged to basketball in order to insure its success. In addition to this, the entire resources now in the student body treasury stand back of the season in case things went so far wrong as to use up all other resources.

A committee of the Executive Committee, consisting of B. F. Tillar, T. W. Gilliam and F. C. Stipes will have the immediate direction of the basketball schedule.

The Yale Naval Training Unit has received a gift of \$10,000 from Harry Payne Whitney, Yale '98. This money will be used to meet daily expenses of the unit and provide new equipment.

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## BROWN LEWIS '11 HAS EXCITING TIMES IN FRANCE

Writes Letters to His Mother  
Telling of His Experiences

Brown Lewis '11 of Charleston, W. Va., is now with the 26th Infantry of the U. S. regulars in France as intelligence officer for the battalion. He won the handsome silver medal in the individual bayonet competition over 300 British and thirty-four U. S. soldiers. In letters to his mother, two of which have come to the notice of the Ring-tum Phi, he tells some of his experiences, including the killing of a Boche. Dabney Kern, son of Dr. J. R. Kern, is a lieutenant in his battalion.

Saturday, Nov. 3.

Mrs. W. D. Lewis:

My Dear Mother: Well, I'm a mighty happy man today. For one thing, school closed here today.

But the biggest reason, I won the medal in the individual bayonet competition. It certainly is a beauty and I'm mighty proud of it. I won it out over 300 British and 34 U. S. A. It's a silver medal, very large and heavy.

I leave here at 6:30 in the morning for the trenches with a British captain. I will be out long before you get this letter, so don't worry. It is really a very quiet part of the line where I am going. I have been assigned to the 26th Regiment, United States army, (it's over here) and will go there when I leave the British trenches.

I suppose it is a permanent assignment, but will let you know when I get there. Don't write until you hear again from me, and I can give you my correct address.

I am glad to go to the trenches and see how it is done, even though I do have to wade in mud waist deep.

Your devoted son,

BROWN.

Please don't worry about me, for I'm sure I'll come out without even a "blighty."

Sunday, Nov. 18.

Mrs. W. D. Lewis:

My Dear Mother: Well I've had lots of exciting times since I wrote you last. I had a wonderful experience up with the British.

It's a peculiar feeling wandering around in "No Man's Land" in the middle of the night. The best part of my trip was I killed a Boche—sniped him at 250 yards.

I stayed in battalion headquarters, forty feet underground. We were shelled hard all the time, but the British artillery behind us put over about 10 for every one we got from the Germans.

I have been over the most famous battlefields, and saw dozens of villages and towns in absolute ruins.

I am now in another part of France with our own soldiers. I was assigned to Company A, 26th Infantry, U. S. regulars, one day last week. The major, Theodore Roosevelt Jr. of our battalion sent for me and made me intelligence officer of the battalion. (That should bring a laugh from John D.) I was sent to our division headquarters for four days' lecture on the subject and got back this morning.

I now pick out the best shots, etc., in the battalion and train them as observers and snipers. It is quite a raise for me, and a very responsible job. But look for me home when the war is over.

Dabney Kern is a lieutenant in A company, also Archie Roosevelt. Our

colonel is Lawton, and General Seibert.

We are billeted in a rotten little village, and not a very nice place to spend the winter. We are having ice every morning now. Have a date with one of our aviators to take me on a joy ride in his plane in the morning. Know I'll enjoy that.

I have gotten away from all company duties now. Had 122 letters to censor one day last week.

Reveille is at six. We have supper at 5:30 and I'm usually in bed by 7:30.

Got two letters from you yesterday. The latest was written October 4th, just before you went to Ohio.

Hope your nerves are all right now. Don't worry about me. I haven't been sick one minute since I landed.

I am going out for a hunt now—hope to get a wild bear. I killed one last week and it tasted pretty good.

Love to all of you, but most for yourself.

Your Devoted Son,  
BROWN LEWIS.

Assistant Football Managers Elected

R. G. Nesbitt and E. C. Stewart were elected junior assistant managers of football for 1918 at a meeting of the athletic council a couple of weeks ago.

The Russians are declining as a military force, but are greatly improved in their ability as debaters.—Dallas News.

Billy Sunday has persuaded 15,000 Los Angeles people that they want to go to heaven. Such disloyalty to the climate of southern California.—St. Louis Globe Democrat.

Count von Bernstorff's degree of Doctor of Laws conferred by the University of Wisconsin has been cancelled by the board of regents. The resolution stated that von Bernstorff was not only an enemy to America but also to society and that his degree should be rescinded.

The University of Washington is fast assuming the guise of a military training camp. There are twelve military organizations on the campus and nearly seven hundred men are wearing the olive drab, while eight hundred are enlisted in the navy training unit. The women of the university are doing their bit by turning out for target practice every afternoon from four to five and once a week for regular infantry drill.

Talking of swimming tests, here an extract from the University Illinois paper:

"Water is to be the chief ingredient which Freshmen will imbibe during the next few days. Short, a long, fat and lean, the members of the last June's star high school class will line with bars of soap and cloth in their best towels they will prepare to remove their aquatic obligations from the long list of requirements for graduation.

"Many will fall, few will rise to occasion. The sixty foot course will be full of gasps and gulps, kicks and snorts, and finally the distant shore is reached, there will be no need patronizing the rink any more water soaked Fresh will receive honorable discharge and may retire.

My Tuesdays are meatless,  
My Wednesdays are wheatless,  
I'm getting more eatless each day,  
My home, it is heatless,  
My bed, it is sheetless,  
They're all sent to the Y. M. C.

My club rooms are treatless,  
My coffee's now sweetless,  
Each day I grow poorer and wiser,  
My stockings are feetless,  
My trousers are seatless,  
My Gosh, but I hate the Kaiser.