

The Columns

Volume II

LEXINGTON, VIRGINIA, SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 1945

Number 22

Rules for Mahan Writing Awards Are Announced

All Students Eligible; Entries Due April First, States Professor Moffatt

Entries for the Mahan Creative Writing Contest must be turned in by April 1, Dr. J. S. Moffatt said. Rules regarding this contest are posted on the bulletin board on the second floor of Payne Hall.

A prize of \$100 reduction in student fees the year following the award or \$60 in cash is offered to the author of the best papers, which must be either informal essays, short stories, one-act plays, or biographical studies. A separate poetry award, established two years ago, is offered to any member of the freshman, sophomore, or junior classes.

This award was established by George A. Mahan, an alumnus of Washington and Lee and a friend of Mark Twain, with the purpose of promoting interest in creative writing in the Washington and Lee student body.

Close observation of the rules is essential, Dr. Moffatt emphasized, if the paper is to be considered. The paper must be at least 1500 words in length, typewritten, and no purely factual prose is accepted.

The winners will be selected by the Department of English and the decisions announced at the commencement program in May.

Festive Weekend Begins With Tonight's Parties

As the first in a projected series of house parties intended to keep social life going in between the infrequent formal dances, the Lambda Chi House will be wide open on Saturday evening from eight-thirty on. There will be a phonograph in place of an orchestra, and McCrum's punch in place of punch, but the affair is being looked forward to as a new experiment on the wartime campus.

The number of pledges would indicate, according to the arrangements committee, that some seventy people will be on hand, in spite of the Southern Seminary disaster which is keeping Lexington clean for another week.

Should the house party be a success, plans are being made for a tea dance the Saturday afternoon of the formal set in April.

The Briar Patch

When you become a member of our community, the opportunity for fair play, good scholarship, and a well-rounded life will be opened to you. But Sweet Briar exists only in her students. Each one of us is responsible for making her live by upholding the high principles upon which she was founded and which she has endeavored to maintain throughout the years. Come prepared to give Sweet Briar the best you have and she pledges her best in return. Preface from Student's Handbook, Sweet Briar College, 1944-1945.

Thus armed, the bright eyed problem child from the city, town, and country sets forth on what promises to be four of the most glorious years in her life. Some of the more talented city girls have already given their best before reading what is expected of them in the preface, while others spruce up and prepare to welcome those shabby inebriates from some so-called "institution" in Charlottesville. Gone are the days when taxi loads of keydets and convertibles packed with gay lads from THE UNIVERSITY in Lexington would offer stiff competition for the Wahoos with their pint sized tumors on their hips. With the railroad still running, believe it or not, Sweet Briar still has the long haired Charlottesville boys to fight off.

A trip over the mountains is well worth it when you're headed in the direction of Sweet Briar. For example, the girls there are urged to remember the demands of good taste and moderation where intoxicants are concerned. Nothing but Canadian Club for them! You'll find the gals well dressed and with an air of pseudo-sophistication acquired in Northern preparatory schools and the Stork Club. Beware of an invitation to dinner at the Rectory. Once inside that dining hall you'll find

that you are the only male in a group which for some strange reason, despite the stuff that's slipped into the food, whistles and shrieks at your appearance. Take your date to the Boxwood Inn on the campus. It's quiet and the food is good.

The campus is a pretty one throughout the year. There are many spacious lawns where one can stroll and look at the ancient boxwoods or something. If one strolls a bit further, a lake appears along with some canoes—need we say more. Don't forget to look into the boat house for any Wahoos who usually are in such condition that a little swim in the lake wouldn't be a bad idea.

Then when you tire of the fair surroundings, hit the road to Lynchburg where the Brass Rail and White House await you and so do the Randolph-Macon women
(Continued on page three)



Gaines to Hold Lecture Series In Early April

Bible Talks Will Deal with Old Testament Heroes; Revives Campus Custom

A series of lectures on "The Bible as Literature" by Dr. Francis P. Gaines, President of the University, to be held in Washington Chapel, is scheduled for Monday through Thursday, April 2-5, at 8 p.m. The four lectures will concern four outstanding Old Testament heroes, with the emphasis in treatment to be placed on the biographical and literary point of view.

This series of lectures is a revival of a tradition begun early in Dr. Gaines' presidency at the request of the students and faculty. The lectures were formerly attended by most of the students and faculty members, but have not been held for about five years here at Washington and Lee. The lectures originated as part of Dr. Gaines' course in English Literature, while he was head of the English Department at Wake Forest College before coming to Washington and Lee.

The lectures were discontinued at Washington and Lee because they were incorporated in a class, "The Bible as Literature," offered by Dr. Gaines, this class being so large that it was felt that the lectures separately were not necessary. However, this same series of lectures has been in great demand in other colleges and student conferences throughout this section. Dr. Gaines delivered them at the Blue Ridge, North Carolina, Student Conference, and has given them at the University of South Carolina, the University of North Carolina College for Women, the University of Virginia, and at various other colleges and seminaries.

President Presents Radio Awards

Tonight, Dr. Francis P. Gaines will present the Alfred I. duPont radio awards for 1944 at the St. Regis hotel in New York. Doctor Gaines is chairman of the committee of judges.

Final details of the program have not been announced, but the program will be carried by one or more of the national networks at or about 8 p.m.

Awards of cash prizes of \$1,000 will be voted to the large radio station that has performed the most meritorious public service,

and to the small station that has done the same. A \$1,000 award will also be given to the news commentator who has best illustrated and most encouraged American ideals.

In addition to Dr. Gaines, the judges will be Mrs. Alfred I. duPont, Dr. Katherine McHale, executive director of the association of university women, Bishop Henry St. George Tucker, president of the federal council of churches, and M. H. Aylesworth, formerly president of NBC.

Committee Meets to Make Plans for Bi-Centennial

Initial plans for the Washington and Lee bi-centennial celebration was the subject of discussion at a joint committee meeting, held in New York on Friday of this week. At this time the executive committee of the board of trustees, the board of trustees committee for the bi-centennial, and the alumni committee for the bi-centennial met at the Vanderbilt.

Wartime successor to The Ring-tum Phi

The Columns

Serving the University Community

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Saturday, March 10, 1945

A Responsibility

With the Campus Tax drive now in progress each one of us is asked to contribute a small sum which will enable campus activities to function with far less handicaps. The Campus Tax is something which the student body passed themselves because they appear to have realized that the need was imminent. It is a drive of solicitation, not of enrollment. Being voluntary, the success of the campaign lies with the student body.

Unfortunately, results thus far have not been satisfactory. There is a definite lag in student support which is indeed disheartening. Must we have another horrible repetition of the Charity Chest which failed so miserably? At that time it was generally accepted that solicitation was weak and student support weaker. It was a plea to relieve the suffering of those around us, and it was unheard. Now we wish to relieve the burdens of our own campus activities and even this does not seem to have any meaning.

Is it too much to ask of each member of the student body to contribute \$1.50? Many of us spend that much in three minutes speaking to Vassar or Smith. Others spend at least five times as much at Hollins and Sweet Briar. It isn't fair to criticize these things because they are our privilege. What we should do is to remember that we seemed aware that a campus tax was needed and so we asked for one. We made ourselves responsible for its success. The opportunity is at hand whereby we may fulfill that pledge. It may be at times that the Executive Committeeman overlooks you. Seek him out and willingly hand him your voluntary contribution. We will be bringing bigger and better dances, enlarging all campus activities, and we will be helping ourselves!

What is more important is that we will be showing the spirit befitting this University. We are carrying on despite the greatest difficulties, overcoming what seemed to be at first impossible. We must not fail now!

Show Team Time

By Dave Guthrie

Another fairly good line-up of shows this week. At the State Sunday and Monday, Ray Milland and Barbara Britton are featured in *Till We Meet Again*, a poorly-timed story of the escape of a British pilot through the French underground; there is a slender love story and slender plot.... just about average fare.

Tuesday and Wednesday, we have a full bill. The feature is another Doctor Gillespie, starring Van Johnson, Lionel Barrymore, and Gloria de Haven. Should be good. In addition, there is a monthly March of Time—"The West Coast Question, plus an Unusual Occupations short.

The highlight of the week is the Thursday through Saturday showing of *Objective Burma*, with Errol Flynn and an all-male cast. This is strictly a war film, grim, without glamor or trace of romance; it concerns a squad of Paratroopers landed in Burma on an important mission and their adventures in trying to escape the Japanese.

Now, let's take in the Lyric. Monday-Tuesday, James Lydon takes the part of a returning veteran in *When the Lights Go On Again*. Chapter 3 of *Zorro's Black Whip* shares the honors (?). Frances Langford in *Girl Rush* is the so-called attraction on Wednesday. The story revolves around a vaudeville troupe in California in 1849. Another in the *This Is America* series also runs.

The numerous Lum and Abner fans about the campus will enjoy the Thursday opus, *Goin' to Town*. Friday and Saturday, Lexington is invaded by the men from the hills hyar'bouts to witness *In Old Monterey* and Chapter something of *Black Arrow*.

Of current interest to all Washington and Lee students now is the portrayal in the movie, *Thirty Seconds over Tokyo* of Jack ("Shorty") Manch. Manch is a Staunton boy, prepared at Augusta Military Academy. He entered Washington and Lee in 1939, and was a member of Sigma Chi social fraternity.

In 1940, he joined the Army Air Corps. He was one of the 73 men who participated in the famous Doolittle raid over Tokyo in 1940; previously Manch had been on patrol duty on the West Coast. Following the raid, he was forced to bail out over China, and had to live on nothing but grass for a week. Madame Chiang-Kai Shek decorated him with China's highest medal of honor; he was also recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Men About Town . . .

Another party on the books and it promises to be the usual gay time. Most of the fellows have gotten that old gleam in their eyes. Tonight they'll cast those hungry orbs around as they and their fair dates dance midst the once sacred surroundings of the Lambda Chi and Phi Kappa Psi houses. Oder, the Lexington flash, had two dates heading over from the Sem, but since that venerable institution has been campused, he is alone with his memories. Taylor will squire the fair B. T. McCluer, while his room-mate, Burton, dates Virginia Givens. Paxton has Eloise Knox, McNeil with Lucy and the yellow convertible thrown in on the deal, Cornelia will keep an eye on Woodruff, and Florida's John Lee has tapped Fredericksburg for his friends. Beddow relives past thoughts at Macon in the person of a gal from the Hill City. Seaman Williams will be spotted with Ann Trinkle. This is a turn in events since Joel had invited Lexington "Deb" Ann, but Irv will head home to Richmond for the weekend.

We'll have a large group from Hollins. Just to make sure they get here the Party Committee entrusted Carlos to guide the women. Latimer, by the way, took his physical in Roanoke yesterday. We hear that he's lodged an official protest which will be defended by the Campos exiled Puertan Rican government.

Clower, McWhorter and Bauer will take things easy since Sem's disregard to support campus activities. All in all, various and sundry characters will be seen with various and sundry characters.

Henry Hill, gay young lad from Louisville, has been setting records at the Phi Psi House ever since he received six letters in one day from Ginger. Keep your eye on that boy—he's going places!

We have received word from the SPS that hereafter civilians will not be appreciated at SPS dances held in Doremus. Could it be that some of our boys stole the show last week? Taylor, Yaste, and Clarke were in the Grand March, Burton was upstairs trying to persuade Betty Co-op to save cigarettes for him, and others were just standing around taking in the brass. Nevertheless, the University code of gentlemanly conduct was maintained at all times, so we can't understand this sudden change in attitude. We have been invited in the past, what's happened?

Deans of many of the women's colleges sending girls here this weekend appear to have a different interpretation of the word "house party," which is contrary to our translation. No, Madame, the girls will not be staying at the Houses. Had we been given time to arrange rooming accommodations something might have been done about it, unfortunately, we didn't think of it soon enough!

THE BRIAR PATCH

(Continued from page one)

who wish they could drag you away from that Sweet Briar girl for a few moments. After a steak or two you should end up in the Oakwood Country Club which is as hospitable as they come. For some of that green stuff you can dance to the strains of a jug band and then hit the jug later on. As the time draws near to return to the Patch you better have a cab waiting—we know!

There you have it, gang. Only a little peep within the sacred confines of Sweet Briar, but believe us, despite the Wahoos you can have a great time. Let's all join in on the last stanza of the "Sweet Briar Song."

"Sweet Briar, Sweet Briar, we sing to thee,
May thy foundations ever be
Strong as thy hills, thy purity
That of thy rose, Sweet Briar!"

Next week: Hollins.

General Chatter
By "Jeff"

Generals Defeat SPS Again

The Washington and Lee Generals again faced the enlisted men of the Special Service School, and again they defeated them, this time by a score of 41-33. The Generals led the attack throughout the game and held a wide margin all the way.

Freshman Henry Hill of the Generals played a superb game at the pivot position. He received passes from his team mates and made them count. He scored a total of nineteen points.

The combination of Joseph and Peters at guard had an important effect on the game, scoring a total of twenty points. Peters flashed those patented one-hand shots, and Joseph was all over the court, dropping the ball through the nets from almost every position on the floor. He scored twelve points while Peters scored eight. "Mighty Mite" Clower fought his way throughout the game. Although he didn't score any points, he kept the servicemen on their toes.

Last Friday the Lambda Chi team evened the standing of the Intramural League by defeating the SAE quintet by a score of 27-18. It was a hard-fought contest all the way.

Art Joseph led the way for the Lambda Chi's, which was the main reason for the fight that the Lambda Chi's displayed after recovering from the loss suffered at the hands of the Phi Psi team.

The SAE's were led by Henry Hill, who scored eleven points and made good all the set shots that his team gave him.

All the teams are now tied, each

having won one game, and lost one.

SAE Pinsters Increase Lead

Hal Chittum led a well-balanced bowling team to easy victory last Wednesday night as the SAE's increased their margin by more than a hundred pins. Striking twice and sparing four times, Chittum smashed a 132 to chalk up the highest game for the evening. Tom Lee and Bill Burton each rolled good games in the final set to bring their team total for that game to 411, the highest thus far marked up in the match.

The teams now stand: SAE, Lambda Chi, and Phi Psi.

Dave Brown to Attempt Revival of Tennis

Dave Brown requests that all who are interested in playing tennis this summer should see him for particulars. He plans to arrange matches with Virginia and other nearby schools.

We understand that he plans to build his team around the basketball flash, Art Joseph. Dave says that he would not hesitate to match Art with any tennis player in the South.

Rugel Appointed As EC Sophomore Committeeman

Jon Rugel, Midlands, Texas, transfer student from the Texas Technological Institute, was appointed Sophomore Executive Committeeman Tuesday night. He will be sworn in at the next meeting.

Rugel will fill the position vacated by Jack Crowder, who left school at the end of the last quarter to join the Army.

Faculty Hears SPS Officer

Capt. William P. Halstead of the Army School for Personnel Services described the army off-duty and on-duty educational programs to the Washington and Lee University faculty on Wednesday. Capt. Halstead, formerly of the department of speech and dramatics at the University of Michigan, is the third of a series

of speakers being brought to the University to explain veterans' education and guidance.

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Freshman Chapel

Wednesday afternoon in Lee Chapel, President Francis P. Gaines spoke informally to a

group of Freshmen about the history and traditions of the University from its founding in 1749 up to the present.

WARNER BROS. STATE

SUN.-MON.

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THURS.-FRI.-SAT.

Objective Burma

with Errol Flynn

Forensic Union

Instead of the scheduled debate, the Forensic Union Monday night discussed in impromptu style the comparative advantages of the American presidential and the British cabinet systems. This change in program was necessitated by the absence of one of the speakers for the evening. The question which was to have been taken up this week will be carried over until the following meeting. At that time, D. V. Guthrie will take the Affirmative and J. P. Carpenter the Negative in "Resolved, That Greece Has Contributed More to Our Civilization Than Has Rome." All students are invited to attend these meetings.

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Fund Donated to Library For Purchasing Books

A fund to be used for the purchase of books in the field of Diplomatic History has been donated to the University by Robert McL. Jester, Jr., Professor Crenshaw of the Department of History announced earlier this week.

Mr. Jester, an alumnus of the class of 1941, is now a practicing attorney in Shreveport, Louisiana. Mr. Shoemaker, of the University Library, has ordered the books which will number about two dozen volumes.

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