

# The Ring-tum Phi

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SEMI-WEEKLY

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## SMOKE CLOUDS, TOO, HAVE THEIR SILVER LINING

The destruction of Tucker Hall is lamentable indeed. Over night the University has lost property with a replacement value of nearly a hundred thousand dollars, and the work of the law school has been thrown into confusion just before the all-important examination period. The insurance carried was far from adequate, and the protective facilities of the University showed themselves none too good. Although the University carries the heavy load of \$900,000 insurance on the whole plant, the portion of this allotted to the law school was far too small, being no more than that allowed for the Chemistry building, which can hardly be damaged at all by fire. There is not much use of going into all that now, beyond learning a simple lesson or two for the future. Tucker Hall is out of the present picture as anything beyond a blackened, smouldering hulk, and the damage has been done. But that damage is not irreparable. As a specimen of architecture for over thirty years Tucker Hall has been as much out of place

replaced by a much better one at a financial sacrifice; it is hard to imagine what Washington and Lee will be like after Washington college burns. And burn it will, as every sensible person can see from experience, unless steps are taken to fireproof it. This undertaking seems to be an ultimate goal that everyone agrees upon, but at the rate the movement is progressing now it will not be thought of seriously until the curious will crowd around a smouldering heap of bricks and wonder why it had to happen. Fire-proofing Washington college is no small task. It would mean replacing the entire inner structure of the building, at a cost estimated to exceed a hundred thousand dollars. But interior improvements are highly desirable now, and extensive repairs will be necessary before many more years. And what will insurance avail when a building that is not replaceable is destroyed?

As soon as a new law school is built and before Liberty Hall is restored, a new recreation field laid off, and an auditorium provided, Washington and Lee should act to protect its greatest material heritage, which has been the center of the University almost since its beginning.

## THE SMALL COLLEGE STANDS AT THE CROSS-ROADS

The head of the Carnegie Corporation has come out with the foundation's annual indictment of the American college system, and this time it expresses the conviction that this country is beginning to realize that it cannot pay the price, either in money or years of youth, for mass college education. The report praises the work of the great institutions, Harvard, Yale, and Princeton, and speaks encouragingly of the experiments underway at Chicago and Minnesota. The attack falls on the small colleges of independent endowment, whose student bodies include one third of the college enrollment of the country. The report says: "It requires no great courage to predict that if it is to survive as a characteristic feature of American education and American life, the independent college must become a very different place from the conventional type which prevailed in the first quarter of the century." It is significant that the main burden of the criticism has been directed against the small independent college, because here education is more of a boast and less of an actuality than in the great state universities where training is vocational to a much greater degree and there is little pretending about scholarship and in the larger private institutions where scholarship is a true aim. The small college of the past quarter century has been a place for four years of rather friendly association; the framework for a not-too-commercialized competitive athletics system; a hotbed for fraternities with rather questionable ideals, student politics, and overemphasized campus honorary positions; and

## OFF THE RECORD

By DUNCAN G. GRONER

Now is the time for all good alumni to come to the rescue of Washington and Lee. Never before in its history did the university so need an ample chest upon which to have a good weep and a good and ample pocket-book upon which to draw.

It seems to me that our present condition, the result of the fire, was brought about by two things: the insufficiency of the insurance on the Law Building and the appalling stupidity of the night-watchman. A different situation in either of these would have counteracted the other and we would today have had either our old law building or we would be in a position to begin erection on a new one within a very few weeks.

As far as the insurance is concerned, it was a perfectly natural thing that the insurance on the building should have been less than even the value of the law library which was completely destroyed.

I have observed for four years now that the night-watchman is very fond of his sleep. I have seen him in the halls of the dormitories dozing peacefully many times when he should have been "watching." The two boys who first discovered the fire say that, after informing Dr. Gaines and ringing the school bell, they found him watching the fire, very much surprised that any such thing could have got started in a space of three hours. Why, he had passed by the building at midnight and there, to his amazement, was the place a roaring inferno at 3:30.

When it is considered what went up in smoke with the building necessary to remodel the present out-of-place misfit.

The work of the Lexington fire department should be commended. The facilities here are none too good for fighting one small fire, much less two large ones. Buena Vista and Staunton, which furnished engines, should also be officially commended.

There is, however, one unpleasant circumstance. It may not have been of a consequence so serious that it cost the building, but I am certain that it should be brought to light. When a student reported to the local telephone office that the Law build-

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir:

I, too, read the Ring-tum Phi and wonder. Wonder why those people who are continually panegyrizing columnists don't try to write a column twice a week and meet the deadline with some copy worth printing.

During the past few weeks "Off the Record" has developed into a verbal battlefield that is accomplishing nothing fast. It all began because Mr. Groner happened across some good copy and a good idea about Traveller's bones. The column has put out some very good copy to the University, as a whole, and has enlightened many

## CAMPUS COMMENT

The funniest incident of the week took place at the Beta house late Saturday night or early Sunday morning. A certain columnist was very much surprised when three of his ardent fans walked in laden with many and various shaped bones. They dumped the bones at the columnist's feet, mumbled something that sounded like "Traveller," and left with no further ado.

Over at the library there's a book reserved for John P. (Chip to you!) Jones. The name of it is "Patriotic Stories for Boys and Girls."

We happened to be glancing over some psychology papers the other day and we got some information on Bill Dyer. One of the questions asked why a certain ad appealed to him, and Bill's answer was, "I like to please the ladies!"

Congratulations to Professor Howard for winning the Co-op's fruit cake, on the name Daisy!

Down at the lumber yard fire we were very much reassured at the sight of Jess Glover, the senior lawyer. In the midst of the excited pajama-clad students, it was very gratifying to see him meticulously dressed, freshly-shaven and very serene in general, with his cane hanging from his arm in all its splendor. Not even a fire can upset these senior lawyers!

We picked up some interesting yarns from several of the fire-laddies while they were waiting for the water-pressure to increase. There was one of their number, a confirmed sot, who never did have enough money to keep himself in giggle-water. Whenever he ran dry, he would go up to the fire house, ignite some kerosene,

an alumnus, as a real team. Certainly that was not publication ballyhoo!

My congratulations on the wonderful showing that the team made this year in winning the Conference title. I am proud of every man on it and proud to be an alumnus of the institution which they represent.

Sincerely,  
A Recent Alumnus

and wait for his colleagues to come to the rescue. When the fire company arrived, someone would always have a drink, and the void would be filled. Wonder if any of the law-students ever heard of that?

And believe it or not, there was one volunteer fireman who was not permitted to ride on the engine, because he hadn't paid dues!

One of the political science professors received a very touching Christmas card signed "Herb Hoover."

The Ladies Home Journal got our vote for oblivion. They put out a book of etiquette for young girls, which tells, among other things, what to do "when your cousin Bertie from Washington and Lee springs a southern accent on you."

One of the economics professors raised an interesting question in class the other day on the subject of "shining." "Who," he asked, "is shining more—the one who attracts attention to him, or the one who accomplishes something, or the one who attracts attention to him by yelling 'shine' at every opportunity?"

The best fire story of the year concerns a freshman. He awakened at about 2 a. m. by a cry of "Fire!" and thinking dormitory afire, he rolled out of bed and ran out of the building. Suddenly a look of consternation came into his sleep-clouded eyes. Fire or no fire, he must enter the building again! With a prayer his lips he dashed through doorway and emerged several moments later with his long hair tucked safely under his arm!

Flies in the Soup Department Emory Cantey's vest . . . the fire or more heroes who claimed to be the last one out of the law school building . . . the yokel who tossed water at a blazing lumber yard with a cher . . . the student hanger-on and starrer-attars who raved the firemen . . . the fifty or more heroes who claimed that they covered the fire in the law school building . . . rumors that the building . . . rumors that the fire was caused by a cigarette, circuit or electricity, because this correspondent has definite information that none of the above guesses are correct.

## Merry Christmas

COME TO