

Why Not?

Delinquent reports — several students would like to forget about these reports and turn to a more cheerful subject. It may be hard to realize, but there are students who did not appear on this list. To those lucky, or should I say ambitious students, I would like to address the following.

Many parents have received delinquent reports in the last few days, but why shouldn't all parents receive a report? Why should not the college send home good news as well as bad?

Recently, several students have complained, "If we work hard enough to stay off the delinquent list, then why can't the college send home a form letter telling them that our work is satisfactory?" I understand that several years ago the college did send out such letters, but it was abandoned. I realize that sending these letters would involve money and labor, but it would certainly be worth it. These letters could generate many pleasant feelings and this would also be an added incentive to work harder.

Perhaps we are mature enough not to have notices or letters sent home informing our parents about our progress, but I am still convinced it would help our morale.

Any comments from the faculty or students would be appreciated. Please send comments to Box 486-T.

—Richard Ergenbright

Why Not Also?

Should we award letters to our outstanding students? This is the question some high schools are trying to answer today. Top athletes in our schools receive letters for their athletic ability. Why should not top scholars then be given letters for their high academic rating? Students should be given some prestige so that they will have an incentive to make good grades and be proud of it.

Letters would give students a goal to work toward. Those who have a chance for letters would start early in the year to vie for them. Letters would be given out among the four major fields of study—English, math, science, and social science — and among the three class levels — sophomore, junior, and senior.

Winners would be selected on three factors. First they must have an overall scholastic average of 90, and they must rate higher than 90 in citizenship. Their grade in the subject counts 50 per cent of their final rating. Finally, they are given a standardized achievement test which counts for the other half.

More than 100 high school systems have adopted this program.

What do you think about awarding letters to top students?

—Mary Sue McIntire

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LITTLE MAN ON CAMPUS



Courage And Grit Distinguish O'Bryan

By RICHARD ERGENBRIGHT

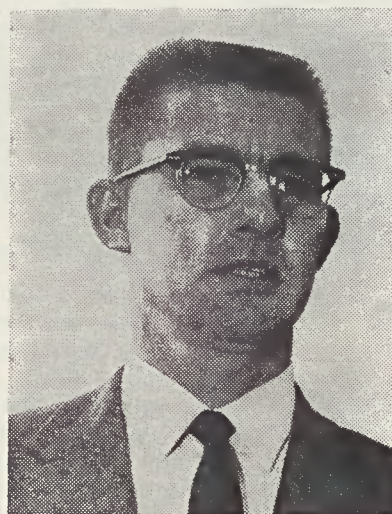
"Jack of all trades and master of some," is a paraphrase that aptly describes Roy L. O'Bryan, a sophomore who has overcome several serious handicaps by "prayer and determination."

Roy was born at Floyd, Va. in 1936. At the age of 5 he had an acute gangrenous appendectomy which left him in poor health. In fact, doctors thought he would be a weakling for life. Roy had other ideas and he firmly believes that only through prayer and determination was he able to make a comeback. His parents felt that Roy should not be babied and that he should be out doing things he wanted to do. At the age of 12 he received his first rifle. Thereafter, rain or shine, Roy and a friend would walk in the woods each weekend and shoot. Roy would have to stop and rest several times, but he was determined to regain his strength.

By the time Roy had become a junior at Washington and Lee High School he had overcome his weakness and was interested in mechanics and auto racing. During a scorching, championship race on July 4, 1954, at Nazareth, Pa., Roy had to make a life or death decision. The throttle jammed open on his Indianapolis-type racer and he knew it would be certain death if his car went into the on-rushing curve at 120 miles per hour; he took to the infield and crashed. Roy received head injuries and a dislocated hip. After his recuperation he found he still had racing in his blood so he turned to building racing engines.

Roy became interested in flying, joined the Civil Air Patrol, and was chosen as the outstanding cadet. Later he became interested in boxing. Here again Roy displayed his determination. Starting in October, he trained so well that in January he competed for the Golden Gloves championship, losing the title by a split decision.

In July, 1958, the Army interrupted Roy's busy life for a tour of duty. He entered the service



with the idea that his training might save his life, so he did his very best. This paid an unexpected dividend when he was chosen as the outstanding trainee at Fort Jackson, S. C. The Army sent him to Fort Huachuca, Ariz., where he became a senior automatic data processing machine repairman.

Another example of the determination with which Roy tackles a challenging problem may be seen in his attempts to get into college. In 1957, before he entered the Army, he applied for admission to Mars Hill and was turned down twice because of a poor academic record in high school. After some maturing military experience he tried again and was accepted for electrical engineering.

When he graduates in June Roy will have taken the engineering subjects offered by the college, making the honor roll in the process.

Looking back over his varied experiences, Roy says "through prayer and determination I have been able to overcome some severe obstacles."

SYMPATHY

The HILLTOP wishes to express its sympathy to Miss Edna Eaves, librarian, in the death of her mother, Mrs. G. W. Eaves, earlier this week.

Letters

To The Editor

On Friday, Nov. 3, at 10 a.m. approximately 60 students boarded the bus headed for Raleigh and the B. S. U. Convention. We had a most enjoyable trip and arrived in Raleigh earlier than expected. Everyone was excited as they made their way up to the Forest Hill Baptist Church. Students could be seen embracing old friends and getting acquainted with new ones.

The theme of the convention was, "A living Church in a Revolutionary World." We had very fine speakers throughout the convention who emphasized the needs of Africa. We, the students, voted during the convention to focus our attention on Africa during 1961-62. Two students will be sent to Crossroads, Africa, this summer, with the B. S. U. paying half the expenses.

We left Sunday morning after a brief service and many could be seen with tear filled eyes as they said good-bye. We had all made new friends and had new experiences.

Each one who attended the convention had a wonderful time, but also gained a lasting message which they would long remember.

—Cynthia Vann

There seems to be a group of boys on campus who do not fit in with the traditions of Mars Hill. They rebel against all things decent and crave the cheap and common things of life.

These boys complain about not having anything to do on the week-end and yet, when the college plans a movie or has a lyceum entertainment on campus, they won't go because they think it is silly. They would rather go into Asheville and get drunk; then when somebody turns them in for being drunk on campus, they call him a "pimp" and try to get back at him in some way.

They criticize the literary societies and yet, they don't have the courage to visit them and see what they are really like. But, of course, the literary societies are made up of men, and not over-grown babies and "ne'-do-wells."

They think the girls should flock to them, but they are afraid to date because their friends will make some remark about the fact that they have a date. When a girl dates a boy with a purpose in life, these punks sit on the cafeteria steps and call her names.

I believe many people will agree with me when I say that these boys can leave at any time. The army will do you good. And you will do the army good, too — the Russian Army that is.

—John Reagan

Less Fortunate Deserve Thanksgiving

Thanks to the faculty committee which makes up the school year calendar as published in the catalogue, we have an added item for which to be grateful this year, Thanksgiving holidays.

For some, however, the temporary suspension of classes may be merely that and little more. Because they live so far away and/or because of limited funds many of our students face the discouraging prospect of having to remain on campus.

For those of us who live close enough to go home for the holiday the misfortune of some of our fellow students can be our golden opportunity to share. Why don't we undertake a campus-wide project to see that every student either goes to his own home or is invited to someone's home for the holiday. Surely it would add to the enjoyment of us all.

Next Issue

December 16

Normally the Hilltop is published twice a month, except in December and January when Christmas holidays and first semester examinations take precedence. This year, because we are having Thanksgiving holidays for the first time, the December issue will be delayed a week, coming out on Dec. 16.