The Messenger

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Why are You at St. Stephen’s

This article is a very imperfect effort of the writer to examine briefly and to crystallize certain tendencies found in College men. I shall use the labels of “tendencies” in this article merely to indicate the dominant elements in the characters of individual students. Then it is my purpose to harmonize these tendencies into a practical course of action for the undergraduate at St. Stephen’s.

For purposes of discussion, allow me to label the various dominant tendencies among undergraduates as: (1) that species of head hunter which one may call the degree hunter; (2) the man whose chief aim seems to be social prestige; (3) the man who goes through College simply because it seems the traditional, the “correct” thing for one to do; (4) finally that woefully small number who seek at College to lay foundations for building up future scholarship.

First let us consider the “degree hunter” type of undergraduate. He is an exceedingly common variety in any College. His ambition is to be able to write as many letters of the alphabet after his name as possible. Such a man is not always particular how he reaches his goal; rather frequently he follows the line of least resistance—with the aid of such intellectual crutches as “trots,” interlinear, answer books, etc. From one point of view, such a man may be quite successful—even attaining to positions of much authority; but, as for future scholarship, his foundations for it are like the old “gym”—utterly incapable of supporting the slightest weight.

The second tendency is that of the man who is seeking social prestige. This chap wishes to be a “Varsity athlete perhaps, or a leader in fraternity life, or he may seek to be editor of the “Messenger.” Surely one whose tendency is solely in any one of these directions cannot but fail to secure a complete education.

The third class are the students whose presence in College seems to be more in line with the public opinion that it is “comme il faut” than through any real volition of themselves. These men are apt to sail comfortably through College in a sort of semi-conscious, half-aware state and with very little ability to think for themselves. Such a type can hardly receive our commendation.

The fourth kind of student commands much more of our respect—the men who are earnestly seeking to lay the foundations for future scholarship. These men are, unfortunately, apt to run too much in one groove—study.

With this very imperfect glimpse of undergraduate life before us, let us turn to the task of assigning to each element a part in producing an harmonious whole that may be a practical life here at St. Stephen’s.

First of all to follow out any harmonious plan practically we must have in addition to possessing the best elements in the tendencies we have considered, some source of power to carry us through dark hours of trial and discouragement. Where shall we find such power? The power-house where we shall find more than enough power to “carry on” when beset with discouragement, is the College Chapel.

An harmonious development must be one that gives its proper function to mind, body and soul. By careful attention to athletics we may obtain that gracefulness of body which results from ability to co-ordinate each part of the body to produce a graceful action. A mind capable of sound judgment may be developed by hard, diligent plugging at seemingly monotonous courses. Finally, it is only by dedicating ourselves as we are—full of imperfections—wholly to God that we can hope to attain to some measure of all around development and become true cultured gentlemen.

Death of Miss Southern

It is with the deepest regret and sorrow that we must announce the death of our Dietitian and House Manager, Miss Mary T. Southern. Although with us at St. Stephen’s only this year, Miss Southern’s loss is keenly felt by all—both faculty and students. Just before going away for the Easter recess we were all made happy by the news of her successful operation and looked forward to the time when she would again be on the campus. But the great shock came when most of us were at our various homes enjoying the spring vacation. Just in the prime of life and vigor it is hard for us to fully realize that our faithful friend can be with us no more.

Miss Southern was born in Richmond, Va., and spent the greater part of her life in that part of the country. At Columbia University she mastered the subject of Dietetics and gained much practical experience at Sherwood Forests, a summer resort in Maryland. Not until last fall were we so fortunate as to have her accept the position of House Manager in which she proved herself more than equal to the task. By her scientific management, the dining-hall was run in the most efficient manner.

Miss Southern quickly imbued the true St. Stephen’s spirit and worked loyally for the best interests of the College. Her ready smile and cheerful manner was an inspiration and enlightenment to many. Behind her she leaves a gap hard to fill, and will always be remembered by us, her friends, as a fine example of true dignity and Christian living.

Miss Southern is survived by a sister, Mrs. R. N. Pitcher, of Sweet Hall, Virginia. The funeral was held in St. John’s Church, Richmond, and burial took place in that city.

William Leo Vincent

On Easter Monday, in the Rhinebeck Hospital, occurred the death of Leo Vincent, a member of the Freshman Class. Death was due to tuberculosis meningitis, a result of being gassed while in France. He was a native of Bloomington, Illinois, and after two years of service in France, entered St. Stephen’s last September. While in service, Vincent won the Croix de Guerre for exceptional bravery. He was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity.

Glee Club Activities

The Glee Club got under way for its 1929 “tour” with a dress rehearsal on the campus on Friday evening, March first, before the vacation.

The programme was that arranged for the concerts at Millbrook, Kingston and Hyde Park with a few additions of local interest. Preston Hall was well filled with an enthusiastic audience of college people and residents of Annandale and Red Hook. The singing was very good and every part was very well rendered. “A Faculty meeting as it might be,” was very clever, and even the Faculty seemed to enjoy it; and Shakespeare might have turned over in his grave had he been the poet’s masterpiece rendered (or rather rent) in “jazz.”

The stage was ingeniously decorated to represent a college room and the warmness of the scene and the colors of some neckties broke the formality of such a performance.

The Freshmen minstrel show which got in on the stage somehow, bringing their pots and pans behind them, and tried to raise the roof with it “uproar” selections must not go unnoticed. This noise was the last item on the programme probably to let the inhabitants of Red Hook know that the first Glee Club concert of the year was over.

Chapel Notes.

On Passion Sunday at the late Eucharist the choir sang Gound’s “Gallicia,” with Hoffman, Clarke and Colwell as soloists. The cantata was exceptionally well-rendered and the choir is to be commended. On the afternoons of Palm Sunday, the choir repeated the cantata at Holy Cross Church, Kingston.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, April 13 and 14, there were requiem celebrations of the Holy Eucharist for Miss Southern and Leo Vincent.

Glee Club at Millbrook

The Millbrook concert, on April 19, was a great—were we going to say a howling—success. Departing from the tradition of evening dress and a semi-circle of singers, the curtain was raised disclosing a group of students living typical college life in a typical college room. Libby, as stage manager, arranged a fine setting. The concert was called a Jazz Jamboree, and tried to justify its title. The balcony scene from “Romeo and Juliet,” done in jazz by Libby and Cleveland, made a great hit. Clark scored with an exhibition of jazz playing and singing at the piano; the Freshman Minstrels, under the direction of Craig, ’23, took up a quarter of an hour with an interesting mixture of noise and wit, playing two numbers on instruments that exhausted all the tonal resources of Jazz. The singing of the club was exceptionally good, as to time, quality and expression; the choirs, “Chapel Steps” and “Mammy’s Little Alabama Coon,” were specially noteworthy. Although the quartet had to be reorganized at the last minute, Pfaffko gracefully substituting for Wilson, it proved to be the best quartet we have had in years.

The Men’s League of Grace Church, under the energetic direction of Rev. J. A. M. Wilson, ’14, made the arrangements for the concert, including a banquet for the club on its arrival. The hall was filled to S. R. O. for the concert; after the performance dancing was enjoyed, with excellent music. Mr. Wilson has shown great spirit as an alumnus, and the management and members of the club were enthusiastic in their praise of the reception given them.

The personnel of the club is as follows: President, Walter F. Hoffman, ’20; director, Cuthbert Fowler, ’21; manager, Gordon L. Kidd, ’21.


Quartet: Clark, Colwell, Pfaffko, Hoffman.

In Other Colleges

After signing their names to contracts to join the movies, three girls at Ohio State University learned that the supposed “agents” were college men. The men had inveigled them into signing bogus contracts.

Degrees and diplomas for brewers and maltsters are a feature of the University of Birmingham, England. There is a regular department of biology and chemistry of fermentation, and a brewing school.

The now-famous “yellow issue” of the Rochester “Campus” has appeared with its accustomed success.

Hamilton’s four debate teams have emerged victorious in inter-collegiate debates, defeating Lafayette, Union, Wesleyan and Rutgers in quick succession.

Luke Dillon, who served fourteen years in a Canadian prison for dynamiting the Willard Canal in 1909, will enter the University of Pennsylvania next year at the age of seventy.

The damage caused at the Union College Freshman banquet amounted to $1,450. The money will be raised by a tax on the entire student body.
THE MESSENGER

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BASEBALL—The national game of the American People—is now fully in the limelight of the "sporting world." A section of nearly every daily paper in the country is at this time of year given over to "wirecuts" of games and discussions of this universal pastime. The old enjoy it and the young crave for it. A clean, manly sport, men of all ages and all physical constitutions can well benefit by the up-building exercise derived from the game. Particularly is it a real college sport, as may be seen by its classification as "major" in all institutions that are represented by any kind of athletic team whatsoever. And now, falling in line with the new active life of St. Stephen’s, we can present a very efficacious team on the field.

The men at College this year, altho hampered by many perplexities, have worked up a team well competent to represent our Alma Mater. With no professional coach to teach the finer points of the game, with but little equipment, and with but comparatively few men to pick from, the early-season outlook was indeed pretty dark. But gradually the horizon lightened. The return to College of a former baseball man gave us a coach. He has taken the squad in hand and accomplished the desired result. Quickly realizing our dire need of new equipment, the student body and faculty thoroughly responded to our appeal. And now some of our alumni are liberally answering our call for funds with which to make possible our scheduled games.

However, we still lack sufficient funds to assure us that we can complete our schedule, but trust that a few more loyal alumni will financially back our material efforts to have St. Stephen’s well represented in all that is worth while.

To organize an entirely new team from a student body of less than one hundred men that will the first year ably compete with collegiate opponents is next to an impossibility. Yet St. Stephen’s expects that this season will show how it can be done. During the war our number dwindled to a point where baseball was out of the question. For the past three years we have had to avoid a collegiate schedule and confine our efforts merely to intra-mural ball. Now the tide has changed. Daily practice, made easy by the great love of the game, quickly whipped the squad in mid-season form. Every practice game has been hotly contested. Spectacular in the field and strong at bat the nine looms up large in the eyes of its followers. Look for the result of our first game, with New York State College, as the start of a successful season.

EASTER, Queen of Feasts and day of happiness and rejoicing has past and its lesson of hope and consolation has been once again refreshed in our minds; yet in spite of the comfort and encouragement of the Paschal season, our pitifully human hearts are left with the dull ache of sorrow caused by the visit of grim and relentless death. The joy of Easter-tide was dimmed for us here at St. Stephen’s by the death of Miss Southern and Leo Vincent, both of whom, although they were with us here a comparatively short time, had established themselves firmly in our affections and it is only with a cruel wrench that their places in our hearts have been made empty.

It has been said that there is no one so beloved or so efficient whose place cannot be filled by someone else, or whose removal from the everyday activities of this life will, after all, make much difference to those left behind. But surely this cannot be true. Physically, perhaps, it is quite possible that an individual’s work may be taken up by another and executed quite as efficiently and, it may be, more so; but spiritually, if a personality has meant anything or has been of any value to its fellows, then the place cannot be filled. Time may heal the wound but there will always be the sigh and the remembrance of the niche which remains empty. So it is in the case of our two friends—they had earned their places in our hearts and although many and strong our future friendships may be, yet they will not suffice to compensate us entirely for our loss.

Miss Southern and Leo came into our small community last September and the strong ties they formed with us are significant of the life lived under such conditions and with such surroundings as ours. They fast became our friends and we forgot that there was a time when we did not know them. Their good qualities became a pleasant part of our life here—Miss Southern with her sweetness and sunniness of disposition, and Leo with his quiet and unobtrusive comradeship. Both were keen sufferers (we know now how greatly they must have suffered) and yet they rarely, if ever, burdened their friends with complaints but smilingly fought on—a splendid example of patience to us who are so prone to murmur and repine when trivial ailments beset us.

True friendship lasts forever. Although they have been removed from our everyday relationships, yet we cannot consider them as being inexcorably alienated from us,—we cannot but look forward to some far distant time of meeting. We who remain must draw closer together and thus in a measure fill up the gap made in the circle of friendship by their deaths, and corporately we can utter the faith-filled prayer spoken by the Church throughout the ages, “Grant them, O Lord, eternal rest and let light perpetual shine upon them.”

An Appeal

In the last two numbers of the “Messenger” a committee, appointed by the Athletic Association, has made an appeal for funds—by which the present baseball schedule may be carried out, and perhaps a foundation laid for next autumn’s athletics.

We regret to say the result of such an appeal has been very disappointing this far. It seems that unless very cordial and pleasing letters are sent to each and every alumnus, the Athletic Association might as well wait for word and in hoping for response talk of the “good old days” when there were athletics. However, it is probably not the case that our alumni are disinterested—it is most assuredly the pressure of the times. We need money—everyone needs money, but we don’t ask for millions. We simply ask anyone to give any amount most favorable and convenient to himself.

Our Alumni know what athletics mean to the undergraduate at St. Stephen’s. They know how indispensable athletics are for a successful education, and they realize that without athletics an institution’s status in the collegiate world is almost nil.

It is only after taking these things into consideration that the Athletic Association appeals to-day for funds. It is only because we are determined to make our Alma Mater a first class college in every way, that we dare to ask Alumni for their support. We want to make this institution a place of which all—even the Alumni—can be proud, of which all can boast and boast rightly.

Alumni, we are not asking favors of you so that we are personally honored by your gifts,—we are but the means; what you do for our athletics you do not for us, but all for our and your Alma Mater.

To date, the Athletic Association Committee acknowledges with thanks the receipts of the following contributions:

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[Kindly address all communications to the Athletic Association Committee on Funds.]

Fraternity Notes
SIGMA ALPHA EPSILON
Strong, '21, attended the Province Beta Convention of Sigma Alpha Epsilon at the Penn.-Harris Hotel, Harrisburg, Penn., April 22nd-24th.

Barr, a former student, now attending the University of Pennsylvania, visited the campus the week before the Easter vacation.

KAPPA GAMMA CHI
Heal, '17 spent two days on the campus during Easter week.

Edgar S. Palmer visited the campus on April 12th.

James Blackwell having spent some time at Annandale has returned to Port Washington.

Glasier, '14 spent a few days at "Hotel de Plais" during the week beginning April 11th.

John S. Welford, '23, was "kapped" on Friday evening, April 23rd. The initiation was followed by a "bust" in the fraternity piano room. Besides the active chapter the Rev. Cuthbert Fowler, '01 and Kirtley Lewis, Sp., were present.

Euxlian Notes
On Saturday morning, April 24, 1920, Mr. Lawrence Russell Anderson and Miss Dora Holmgren were united in marriage in

Trinity Church, New York City, by the Reverend Dr. McComas. The happy pair then proceeded to pay St. Stephen's College a short visit.

It was not long before Mr. Anderson became Brother Anderson. After initiating him into Euxlian Saturday evening, the active chapter tendered the newly wedded couple a little party at the Chapter House which was graced by the presence of Professor and Mrs. Kallenbach. Several happy hours were thus spent. How could it be otherwise with such a charming bride and groom? It is not every man who can claim marriage and initiation on the same day. We trust that April 24th will linger long in our memories.

Brother and Mrs. Anderson have taken up their residence in Passaic, N. J. All of us wish them perpetual happiness and prosperity.

Brother Andrew C. Harper of Red Hook, has been a frequent visitor on the campus.

Brother Philip S. Dean, '89, appeared on the campus Sunday morning, April 25th.

Euxlian's triennial dinner will be held this year on Friday evening, May seventh. It will be in honor of the sixtieth anniversary of the founding of St. Stephen's and Euxlian. All of the faculty and the student body are cordially invited to attend, and any of the alumni who may find it possible to be present are assured of a hearty welcome. Euxlian has worked hard to make this affair a success and hopes that it will be a credit to the College as well as to the fraternity.

It will please the Euxlian alumni we hope, to learn that the Chapter House is being well cared for and that small improvements are frequently being made. With spring upon us, the large corner lot is constantly growing greener and the little house upon the hill becomes more and more inviting.

Campus Notes
The Trustee Room, Ludlow-Willink Hall, formerly the student's reading room, will be used as the president's office. The location of the reading room has been changed to Hoffman Library.

President's Page

I am sure that it will interest all readers of this page to know that Hoffman, Potter, McVickar and Aspinwall Halls are completely filled for next year, and that the sixteen places in Orient, the only remaining dormitory, will undoubtedly be reserved by the first of July at the latest. Then, if we are to take men, they will have to be lodged about in the village. If, therefore, you know of any lad contemplating St. Stephen's for next year, it will pay him to communicate with the College at no late date. As many of you know from experience, living on the campus is much more fun than living off it. Men may find that formal registration is impossible before the end of their preparatory or secondary school terms. Such men should write in to the office and tell us that, and that they desire to come if registration can be completed. We can hold rooms for such persons until the first of July.

Orient Hall will be transformed into a dormitory again this summer, with a new set of showers. It will have eight double rooms, for sixteen men. The central portions of the hall will still remain as quarters for the employees. The common room, which, with the gymnasium built will no longer be needed, will be turned into chemistry and biology laboratories. The mathematics and physics departments will be transferred to the basement of Ludlow and Willink Hall. Two of the class-rooms will be put into the new gymnasium building. Baird Hall will be renovated and accommodate two more.

This shifting of class-rooms makes it apparent that the new gymnasium must be followed by a new class-room building and at least one new dormitory in the not distant future.

Please do not forget that Commencement is on the sixteenth of June, and that you, whoever you are, that read this, are expected to come and rejoice with us.

Yours most sincerely,

[Signature]

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