

# Botanical Studies Bring Adventures Of Tropical Travel To Dr. Baldwin

By Marjorie Lee  
Flat Hat Feature Writer

Anyone planning a trip to the tropics might well turn to Dr. John T. Baldwin of the Biology Department for advice. Dr. Baldwin is a veteran of three botanical research trips to Africa and South America. "I first became interested in botany while an undergraduate at William and Mary and I've never regretted it," Dr. Baldwin stated. He obtained his doctorate at the University of Virginia, continued graduate work at Cornell, and taught at the University of Michigan before returning to William and Mary as a professor of Biology in 1946.

Dr. Baldwin's first foreign assignment for the Department of Agriculture called for two years in the Amazon studying the botany of rubber. It was not snakes or other wild life that made tropical life difficult for the botanist. Ants seem to have been the worst complication. Dr. Baldwin recalls that on one occasion the ants ate his shoes when they were left under his hammock in the forest overnight. African ants once invaded the house where he had taken shelter, but these were successfully repelled with the aid of a D.D.T. bomb. Even though he has been a five-time malaria victim, Dr. Baldwin says "There is no real danger in traveling in the tropics if precautions are taken. Now most of the tropical diseases can be controlled." Dr. Baldwin emphasized that it is the ordinary things that cause accidents, rather than the spectacular. Witness the box of candy given him by a Bolivian girl. In one piece he found a bent straight pin that had accidentally been included in the recipe.

### Liberian Expedition

His second research venture was an economic mission under the Department of State. He was sent to Liberia to evaluate the agricultural potentials of that country.

In 1949 Dr. Baldwin returned to West Africa to collect *Strophanthus*, a powerful arrow-poison plant, for chemical analysis by the National Institutes of Public Health, as a possible source of a compound from which cortisone could be made.

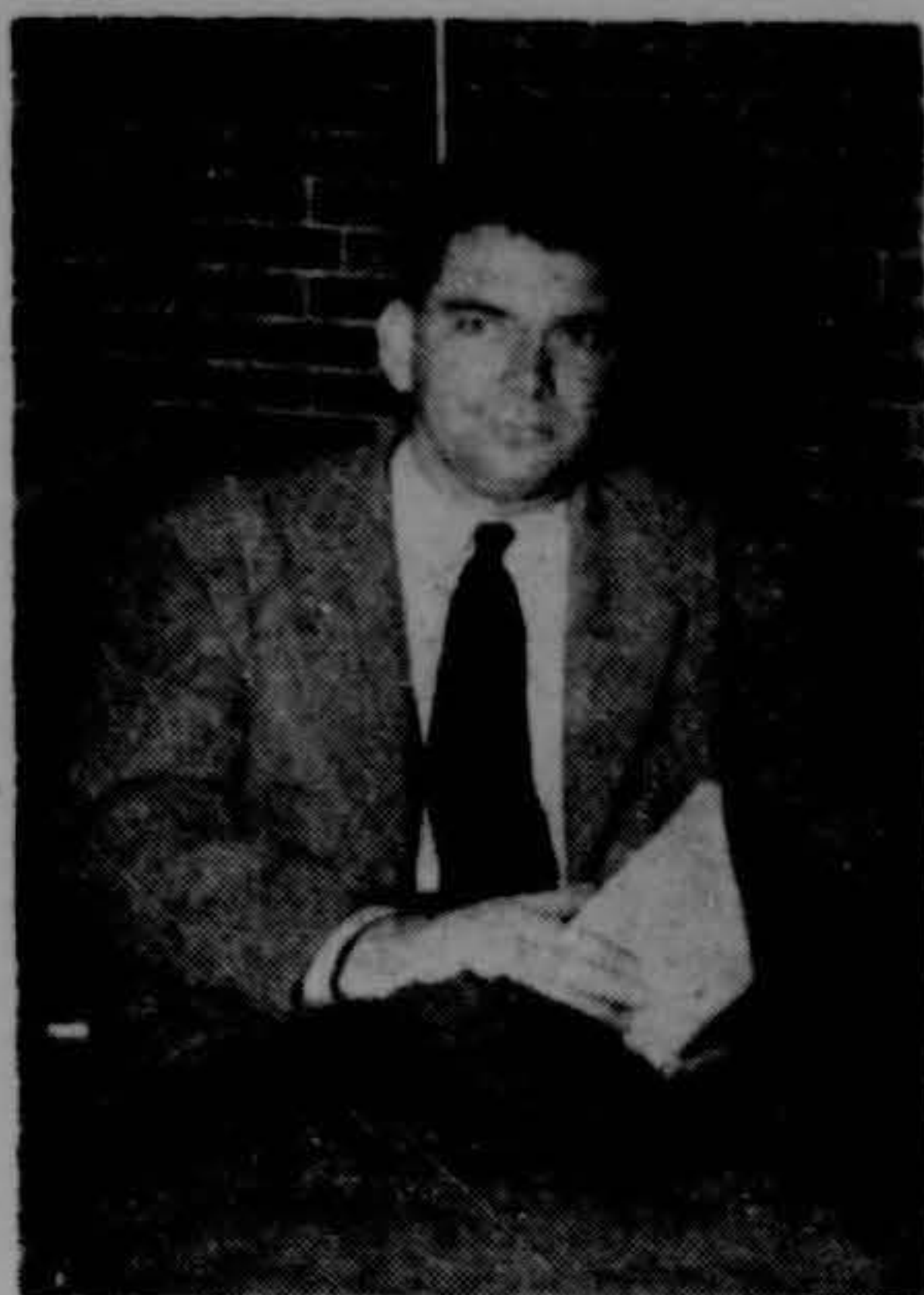
After he returned from Africa, he was sent to Mexico to collect yams for cortisone research. This group of plants has recently been reported to be a very good vegetable source of cortisone; previously it had been made only from bile of cattle. In Mexico, Baldwin traveled several thousand miles in a government-owned car under conditions that even tourists might envy.

Traveling with pygmy helpers presented quite a problem at times, and Dr. Baldwin considers that his most amusing experience involved water travel in pygmy-sized dugouts. When his party came to a stream, the small attendants would call to the villagers on the other side to send two canoes, since he was a bit too large for only one.

### Gold Coast Native

"Wherever I went I found the native people friendly and helpful," Dr. Baldwin continued. He brought a native of the Gold Coast back to Williamsburg with him. The boy, who had been his aide in Africa, created quite a furor among the tourists who saw him at work in the palace scullery. He is now attending college in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Dr. Baldwin, with the collaboration of Dr. Speese, is currently publishing the results of his study



of African plants and other vegetation. A member of Phi Beta Kappa, Baldwin is listed in *Who's Who* and in *American Men of Science*.

## Elections

(Continued from page 1)

at the polls.

All three have prepared statements for the Flat Hat which may be found on page

For the vice-presidency of the student body there are also three candidates; Peter J. Hino, Henry D. Wilde and Wallace Wilsey.

Students from all classes are eligible to vote in these elections.

### Class Offices

Class elections were characterized by scattered interest with few petitions filed for the lesser offices but great interest shown on the major ones.

The following candidates are seeking election to the various class offices:

#### Class of '53

President: Gale Carrithers, W. T. Withers, Fenell and Carmen Romeo.

Vice-president: Posie J. Hundley, James Shatynski and Richard Bigelow.

Secretary-treasurer: Ann Johnson, Barbara Jo Mott and Mary Ellen Romney.

#### Class of '54

President: Cary Scates, Calvin Tennis and Warren Weiss.

Vice-president: John Christoferson, Arnold Lubasch and Robert W. Neuville.

Secretary-treasurer: Bev Barnes, Bette Bodley and Libbie Lewis.

#### Class of '55

President: Richard T. Clark, Howie Cline and Edward Coco.

Vice-president: Robert Coco, Leonard Meyerson and Donald R. Spivey.

Secretary-treasurer: Lou Biggs, Jane Kesler and Shirley Staubs.

A student may vote only for the officers for the class of which he is a member in good standing.

## Pan Hellenic Council Announces Activities, Plans for Installation

Andy Anderson, President of Pan-Hellenic Council, has announced the following forthcoming activities of the Council.

Of prime importance is the drive being sponsored by the Council for contributions to Eastern State for the purpose of purchasing new furniture. Each sorority on campus will contribute \$10.00 and that will be added to a fund to be collected from the fraternities on campus. This drive will be carried on during the month of April.

On April 22, the Council will hold its annual initiation banquet in the Senior Room of the cafeteria. This banquet will be for the purpose of installing the new Pan-Hellenic Council officers for next year.

A bake sale is scheduled to be held on April 26 in the foyer of Phi Beta Kappa Hall. Proceeds from the sale will be contributed to the Pan-Hellenic Scholarship Fund. The sale is scheduled to begin at noon and will continue until all pastries are sold.

## IFC Announces Rules

Nominations for the new IFC president will be made in the Council on Wednesday, April 16. Candidates for the position will be chosen from the second representatives of the eleven fraternities and through a process of elimination three names will be placed on ballots to be circulated throughout the fraternities. Each fraternity will receive one ballot per man in its membership, except those fraternities which have a representative on the ballot—they shall have no vote. The nominee receiving a plurality will be the victor.

It is urged that each fraternity man give careful thought before voting, for the man who is chosen will not only head the Council but will also be the fraternities' representative in all affairs.

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## Student Assembly News

(Continued from Page 1)

from asking the Dean of Women and/or Dean of Men to grant special permission for absences immediately before and after the Thanksgiving holiday.

"(3) That the Student Assembly will work with the Pan-Hellenic and Interfraternity Councils in attempting to arrange that rushing periods next year come immediately before or after the Thanksgiving holiday.

"(4) That the class days lost will be off-set by the following changes in the first week of the 1952-53 session:

(a) Orientation Period will be from Sunday, September 14, through Tuesday, September 16, instead of Monday through Wednesday.

(b) Registration will be on Wednesday and Thursday, September 17-18, instead of Thursday and Friday.

(c) The first classes will be held on Friday and Saturday, September 19-20, instead of Monday and Tuesday."

### Building and Grounds Committee

The Building and Grounds Committee, to consist of the Building and Grounds Committee of the College plus Layton Zimmer, John Dalton, Julia Youngquist and Dave Wakefield, was set up at this meeting for the purpose of getting ideas from the students on improvements which might be made around the campus. These suggestions would be given to the Building and Grounds Committee of the College in time to be included in the budget for the coming term.

An Athletic Advisory Committee was created and includes John Dalton, Freddy Allen, Dave Wakefield, Dr. Kernodle, Dr. Jones and President Chandler.

The suggestion has been made to add more information about fraternities and sororities to the College Catalogue, or, as an alternative, to send the Indian Handbook along with the Catalogue to all prospective students.

The Assembly-sponsored Campus Chest Drive has reached a total of \$373, aided greatly by the ODK-faculty basketball game. The Assembly passed a motion which makes the Campus Chest Drive an annual affair.

By amendments to the By-laws of the Constitution, the Assembly added a make-up editor to the staff of the Royalist, clarified the status of the Cheerleading Squad, and amended the qualifications for holding offices in the Student Government.

The Assembly requests that all students co-operate with the "Keep off the Grass" effort now in progress. New grass has been planted, stakes have been placed around the newly planted grass, and signs have been posted to remind all students to use the walkways. The work has been done and the Assembly asks only that each student "Take Steps—Keep our Campus Green."

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