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May 1992 Volume 3, Issue 7

## MAGAZINE



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# MAY

# W&LSpectator

Volume 3, Issue 7

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# THE RITES OF SPRING

## EDITOR'S FORUM

**I**F SOMETHING HAPPENS ONCE AT Washington and Lee and people notice it, then it is an event. But when it happens twice, that is a tradition.

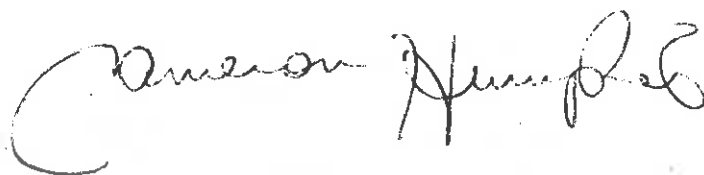
This Alumni Weekend issue, then, both with its new design and new staff constitutes a traditional affair now for the magazine as it begins its fourth year of publication.

And what a year it promises to be! Replacing our outgoing senior editors are Jim Eddings, Allison Krentel, Robby MacNaughton and Will Thomas. Many of these new editors are ripe from their experience on Mock Convention, others from their involvement in University athletics and/or fraternity or sorority life. Together they maintain another of the W&L Spectator's traditions---student leadership on the editorial board. And it is such leadership in past years that have enabled the Spectator to boast EC, SCC, and even CRC representatives on our board, in addition to those from ODK, Phi Beta Kappa, University Schol-

ars, Contact, IFC, Panhellenic Council, University athletics, Drama, and College Republicans to name a few.

Our outgoing editors, Jeff Kelsey, Brant Martin, Nancy Mitchell, and Marc Short have consistently demonstrated that one does not need a degree from the Department of Journalism and Mass Communications to break a news event or accurately report a story. This year has been a year of "firsts" and "onlys" for the magazine. First to detail Dean Howison and Manning's restructuring of student government, including the CRC, and the only publication to detail each step in that process. First to discover an obscure change in the University Catalogue enabling the President to suspend students at will, and the only publication to oversee its correction. First to address faculty's declining respect for the Honor System, and the only publication to call them to task for it.

Personally, it has been a great honor and privilege to have worked with such an esteemed staff. I wish them well following graduation, grateful for the standards they have established for next year's, I mean this year's staff.



Cameron Humphries  
Editor-in-Chief

**EDITOR**  
Cameron Humphries  
**PUBLISHER**  
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## W&LSpectator

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# How to visit W&L seven times a year

**Q** *What student publication has the most student leaders on its editorial staff?*

**A** The *Washington and Lee Spectator* has always boasted a broad array of writers who are involved in most aspects of campus life. Rather than recruit simply from the Journalism School, the *Spectator* attracts writers from all disciplines.

**Q** *What campus publication was founded with W&L's the goal of preserving this University's traditions?*

**A** The *W&L Spectator* was founded by students who feared that W&L's traditions were being sacrificed for the sake of keeping in tune with academia.

**Q** *Why subscribe to the W&L Spectator?*

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# General *opinion*

SAC · POLICE RAID · CARTER · MAGIC · YALE · DR. LEARY

## **Carter Claims Gorbechev is Responsible for End of The Cold War**

Yeah, right.

## **W&L, Get a SAC**

*Is the Student Affairs  
Committee actually for  
the students?*

Does a Student Affairs Committee actually exist on this campus, or should we just replace this obvious misnomer with something a little more appropriate, like FAC (faculty affairs committee). Although the SAC has actually granted the SCC some autonomy recently, it seems that this particular acronym should end up in the graveyard along with the CRC.

The SAC is basically designed to handle the affairs of the student body, such as the Delta Tau Delta decision, Winter Rush, and the all too well known CRC, to name a few. The problem essentially arises when it comes time to

vote. The students do not comprise a majority on this *Student Affairs Committee*. It would make sense to think that the students on the committee would be more in touch with the student body than would the faculty. Visions of Dean Howison hanging out at a Wednesday night party just don't come to mind. The auxiliary office doesn't quite cut it when it comes to getting a true feeling of how the students think. It is a step in the right direction, though.

Back to the majority issue. Recently, the Panhellenic Council was added as a voting member which would have given the students a majority. But Noooo, this didn't fly with the overly conservative faculty (ha,ha,ha) of W & L. They had to add another faculty member for some unknown reason, just so the overly liberal students wouldn't get the proverbial upper-hand.

The irony of the entire situation lies within the fact that the students rarely vote as a block. Faculty—paranoia will destroy ya'.

Incidentally, the faculty as a whole elect the faculty members of SAC. One would think that the faculty could instill in these oh so lucky chosen few to repre-

sent their views. This, however, is not the case as the entire faculty retains the final say so on all SAC decisions. In the past, the faculty has disregarded and ignored the hours of the debate and consideration given to issues with in the forum of SAC and instead flip-pantly overturn SAC decisions to pursue their own ends—further muting the voice of students' input.

As if the majority issue isn't enough to make one go on a tri-state killing spree, you'll just love what lies ahead. Have you ever heard of a court of law and the rule that hearsay is not admissible as evidence. Well, hearsay is SAC's best friend. They just love it. Oh, Johnny was overheard saying Billy was a little light in the loafers, well lets give'em the boot. What? You students don't agree. Tough.

Why doesn't the faculty of this "place," (we will not lower ourselves to calling W & L a learning institution,) where one is down graded for using the word "his" instead of "his/her" or "it", feel that students are inept adjudicators? I mean, who is paying whose salary here? You're right, the parents; people who generally hate new world liberal academics more than their kids do. Come on people, let's get a

grip, and faculty, get a SAC.

## **Police Raid at Phi Kap**

*Lexington's finest  
enjoy themselves at  
Phi Kappa Sigma  
during Fancy Dress.*

Fancy Dress came to an unexpected end at Phi Kappa Sigma when four Lexington police officers showed up around 3:00 in the morning. The officers hurried from the corner of Jefferson and Henry Streets—two came in through the back door while two others forced their way through the broken front door that was shut. The surprised people inside Phi Kap were told that "the guy up there in the corner room has to turn his stereo down."

One officer then began to go upstairs when a brother told the policeman he'd take care of it. Before the student could explain the complaint to the people in the room, that same officer walked in saying, "Yeah, you'd better listen to him and turn it down...The cops are here!"

After the music was turned down the "cops" explained to a student that

they're allowed inside any fraternity house, anytime, because they are now University property. Of course, the officers insisted their presence was necessary because the stereo was so loud. [Even though the next morning, the house mother, a self-confessed light sleeper, was surprised at the incident because she didn't hear the stereo.]

Finally four police officers were escorted out of the house, even though they claimed they had the right to hang out inside. They told the Phi Kaps they would stop by to give them a litter violation. Although the police didn't arrive on Sunday morning to issue a litter violation, one Phi Kap thought maybe they were just waiting until noon so

they could join the brothers for brunch.

Hopefully, all the alumni who came back to W&L for FD weekend enjoyed themselves and had as much fun with their fraternity brothers as the Lexington police often do.

## He Said, She Said

*Faculty requiring gender-neutral language isn't new.*

Law professor Gwen Handelman elevated her desire for political correctness at W&L to ridiculous heights recently when she lowered the grades of two third-year law students who failed to

use gender neutral language in papers assigned for her Tax Ethics class. Rather than use the awkward "he, she or it" for each pronoun, the students who are, not coincidentally, white males chose the traditional "he" or in some cases "she" to represent non-specific antecedents.

While such action is not surprising coming from a woman who berates students for referring to her as "ma'am" (perhaps she would prefer "sir"), it does mark a low point for the liberal education which W&L purports to bestow on its students. Grammatical and syntactical correctness are no longer enough. Instead, the student must now tailor his language to fit the particular ideological bent of

the professor in order to receive a fair grade. Rather than challenge the professor on issues and ideas, the student must blindly accept whatever the professor belches forth or face lowered grades. Such intellectual intimidation fits nicely into the CRC model of social engineering through restraint of free speech, but it has no place at W&L or in legitimate academia.

And yet, one wonders why all the surprise over Professor Handelman's requirement. Though she may be the first professor to formally require gender-neutral language, she is not the first to grade students down for failure to use it. Why no headlines concerning Professor Simpson's similar attempts at grammatical engineering?

## TOP TEN LINES OVERHEAD ALUMNI WEEKEND

10. "I'm staying at the Comfort Inn, Room #312. And if any of my friends ask, you go to Hollins.
9. "Gee, I never thought I'd be sneaking out of a W&L dorm."
8. "In my day, we only needed three urinals and a stall."
7. "Yes, actually, I'm very rich."
6. "That's a library? It looks like a mausoleum."
5. "What do you mean, I paid for that mausoleum?"
4. "What's a General Headquarters? You mean the Cockpit, right?"
3. "Wilson is still in Lee House."
2. "What do you mean the military ban on the law school hasn't been overturned?"
1. "Hello, Dr. Futch, it's great to see you again!"

## Drug Lords in Lee Chapel

*Contact debate between leaders of drug world is disappointing.*

The emaciated figure entered Lee Chapel wearing white tennis shoes and a black nylon jacket covered with prints of the earth. Dr. Leary paused in front of the

# General *opinion*

portrait of General Lee, stared for a few seconds, and then imitated the General's pose. A little too much LSD? Perhaps.

On April 30, the Washington and Lee community witnessed a debate between 60's guru Dr. Timothy Leary and former Drug Enforcement Agency head, Mr. Peter Bensinger. On one side appeared a relic of the psychedelic age who coined the phrase, "Turn on, tune in, drop out." On the other side stood a Washington bureaucrat who has spent his life's work in drug enforcement and education. The stage was set for a battle of individual's rights versus the public good, yet the evening proved to be little of a debate at all. The two men mostly talked in circles about the effects of airplane pilots getting high.

Mr. Bensinger lectured as if he were addressing second graders and carefully avoided any shocking facts. His main objective is to spend money on drug education, which he feels will consequently lower our nation's enormous demand for drugs. Dr. Leary, on the other hand, rambled from one unrelated topic to the next and did everything in his power to act and appear exactly the opposite of "Mr. DEA." Not sufficiently

armed with many facts, Leary allowed the debate to turn into somewhat of a farce. He ended his "speech" by requesting that every time we look at the Capitol remember that all the top scum in the world is congregated under that one dome.

Bensinger is now the president of a consulting firm providing information on drug abuse. Leary continues to be a chief spokesman for the "cultural revolution" and is in the process of simulating LSD and other mind experiences with the aid of his computer software company, Futique, Inc. Although the expectations of a heated debate were never met, the evening was entertaining and the ramblings and contrasting appearances proved to be educational, if not in the anticipated way.

## PC Security

*With rising crime rates on our nation's campuses, some trendy schools are combatting the problem with PC re-education.*

Ever wonder how the folks up in New Haven, Connecticut are doing? (yes, home to *that* university)

Doesn't look too good. This year the city of New Haven has clocked in with some pretty impressive crime statistics: 31 murders, 168 rapes, 1,784 robberies, 2,008 aggravated assaults, 4,476 burglaries, and 3,459 auto thefts. This obviously has the students at Yale a little nervous (and parents, too; why pay \$25,000+ a year to have your son or daughter mugged coming back from English class?). So what does the school do? More security guards and better exterior lighting perhaps? Come on, this is Yale, and that would be a fascist response typical of an imperialistic aggressor more concerned with punishing criminals than alleviating social injustices.

While increased security efforts are in the works (hey, they have pocketbooks...I mean parents to keep happy), University President Benno Schmidt has announced that he will lobby "for an absolutely rigorous and effective form of handgun control." Maybe he will succeed in making the laws as strict as they are in New York City, where there are four murders committed with guns every day. Yale junior Joshua Wallack, who works with several campus social-service groups, has said he "choose[s] to view

this problem as a call to Yale students to get more involved in the community." Another student has: "New Haven and Yale co-exist right next to each other, but they are isolated. That's the core of the problem." One can just see the town-gown goodwill cookout now: all the drug gangs and thieves will come to discover just how concerned Yalies are over their problems and will cease their criminal actions against these innocent and right-thinking students. Alumni magazine editor Karen Kaylin has said that "crime on the campus won't truly be eradicated until Yale spends more of its resources tackling the root causes of crime such as drugs, poverty, homelessness, and unemployment. University Secretary Sheila Wellington advises us that Yale's next responsibility after the safety of the students is to help the surrounding neighborhoods alleviate their social ills. Gee, I suppose teaching the students something would be out of the question (though, at Yale they probably learn by reading the diaries of drug dealers and studying gang graffiti, anyway). After all, does one not attend Yale (and pay dearly for it) in order to improve the lives of New Ha-



ven residents?

While the noble aims of the Yale community to fight injustice will continue to be a beacon for the politically correct and educationally impotent everywhere, why not do the sensible thing, a la Lexington, Virginia: tax the students cars in order to finance programs to eradicate the social ills of New Haven?

## Magic

*Is Magic Johnson's new book's promotion in our bookstore appropriate?*

Magic Johnson's newly released book, *How not to get AIDS*, offers explicit instructions to the public in order to educate them on how to protect themselves against AIDS. Magic, himself, just recently diagnosed as being HIV positive, has be-

gun a crusade against the disease AIDS, not only with his book, but with the Magic Johnson Foundation. Although his efforts are noble and he should be commended, there exists no reason to call him a hero. His situation results from his own constant promiscuity over the years. On the other hand, tennis player Arthur Ashe, who contracted AIDS through a blood transfusion brings one to a deeper level of sympathy.

Magic's book comes for-

ward to educate the public in prevention measures, for heterosexuals, homosexuals, and needle users. The book includes rather graphic details on putting on condoms, and in case that you are unsure of the procedure, you could practice on "an appropriately shaped fruit or vegetable." But if you consider this book worthwhile as it presents so-called mainstream prevention, it is obvious that the most logical way to prevent "small tears in the lining of the rectum" from putting a fist into someone else's rear end is by avoiding such activity. He also includes cleaning instructions for all needle users; remember to "bleach four or five times [and then] water three to five times."

Although this information is included, there is little expression of abstinence from sex or drugs or engaging in a monogamous relationship. Incidentally, it may be worthwhile noting that this book is currently found next to the register in the W&L book store. Why is it that our university insists on refusing to sell *Cheating 101*, but promotes a manual of sexual deviance?

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For both of these groups there is a simple solution. To the busybodies: butt out. To the crybabies: if you want something done, do it yourself.

Brant Martin is a senior from Fort Worth, Texas.

# Busybodies and Crybabies

**S**EVERAL TIMES OVER THE LAST year I have been confronted by exclamations of amazement, and, oftentimes, blank stares. "YOU work for the *Spectator*?" Well, yes, I do. In fact, I usually write the "barbaric" mock ads and Top Ten lists that no one likes, but which invariably make people laugh. And over the past four years I've noticed two alarming trends creeping into our community. Last year, *Time* magazine ran a cover story entitled "Busybodies and Crybabies: What is Happening to the American character?" This article pointed out the prevalence in our society of the two groups mentioned in the title. Unfortunately, these two factions, one which tells us what we can and cannot do and the other which wants everyone but themselves to do something for them, have also become a vocal part of the W&L community. For both of these groups there is a simple solution. To the busybodies: butt out. To the crybabies: if you want something done, do it yourself.

First and foremost are the busybodies. Now I'm all for free speech. If someone thinks they have a foolproof plan for making us all live together in harmony, then I'd be more than happy to hear it. Just because I listen to it, however, does not necessarily mean that I will agree with it, or that I will help implement it. That's an American tradition: you may have the right to propose something, but I've got the right to reject your proposal. But too often here at W&L, these supposed "visionaries" are in positions of power in this University and do not listen to those who are affected by their decisions. (Now right about here, the people that I just mentioned in this last sentence are completely dismissing this article, and

if they read any further, it will be with a smirk of contempt. Like myself, they have that right.) But over the last four years some nasty philosophies have crept into our school, and to ignore them or simply let them slide by would be a disservice to the school I've come to love.

The epitome of the busybodies, is the CRC. This body and its "Code of Civility" have been examined and reexamined in almost every student publication at W&L. I will spare us all another rehash of the controversy and will only examine the results. In a nutshell: some faculty want it, a few don't; most students don't want it, while a small minority do. My view is simple: since the Code directly affects only the students, any implementation should be left up to the students themselves. Now, many of our busybodies and modern-day "sensitivity superiors" view this answer as too pat. As students, we don't have the maturity and high-level of "consciousness" necessary to judge cases of personal insult and politically-incorrect slurs. Well then, if we are all that immature, why were we allowed entrance into this "prestigious" University? If W&L's admissions process is as meticulous as the University trumpets, then we are perfectly capable of managing our own affairs through our own representatives, without any interference from those who are supposed to "teach," not "indoctrinate." By the time someone reaches college-age, any notion of *in loco parentis* is not only silly, it is futile.

The acronymm SCC stands for Student Conduct Committee. Correct me if I'm wrong here, but that seems to say that through the SCC, student leaders, duly elected by the students themselves, can determine the standards for student conduct. Gee, what a novel idea: self-determi-



# Giles & Josh

## *Our Executive Committee Presidents*

by Cameron Humphries

For most W&L students, Spring Term means weekends at Goshen Pass, reduced academic loads, weeknight parties, and most of all, a relaxed campus environment. But for leaders of the Executive Committee and other student organizations, Spring Term also means transition. Though he still serves as EC president, Giles Perkins is passing the reigns of W&L's most important student position to his successor, Josh MacFarland.

MacFarland, a rising senior from Hunt Valley, Maryland, is eager to accept the responsibility. "It feels great," Josh notes. "I am excited. This is something that I have always wanted to do, but never thought that I would have the chance to do it."

Josh succeeds Perkins following elections last



February in which he ran unopposed. "I was not involved in a very difficult election," he notes, "except against Mickey Mouse."

Despite the ease with which he was elected, MacFarland inherits a difficult position. Immediately facing the new EC president are the traditional responsibilities of the job, such as preparing Freshman Honor Orientation, allocating student funds, sitting on SAC, and overseeing the Honor System.

Last year's Freshman Orientation was so successful, Josh says, that he has little plans to change it. "We presented orientation," Perkins elaborates, "more seriously than we had the year before. We got a lot of complaints that we had been a little too casual both in the [freshman] presentation last year and in the law school [this year]." Why the success this year? Giles explains, "We took orientation seriously and the freshman responded well."

One aspect of orientation that did not appear to work surrounded the orientation of new faculty. Concerned that some faculty members were not respecting the Honor System,

Giles raised the issue at the October meeting of the Board of Trustees. The Board asked him, along with Dean Elrod, to develop a new plan that they presented to the Trustees in February. Perkins explains, "This year it became apparent that we were not remedying all the problems that some of the new faculty were having with the [Honor] System, and so the EC, in conjunction with the Deans and the Board of Trustees, developed a new plan for faculty orientation.

"This plan entails contacting potential new faculty before they are hired regarding the Honor System, and then again contacting them once they arrive on campus. If they are not happy with the Honor System they have the option of not coming here." Asked if the administration had been aware of this problem, Giles notes "I think the administration was aware that faculty disregard of the Honor



System is a concern. I think that they were surprised that there was a student perception, and in my mind a reality, that this is a real problem."

The second of the EC president's "kick-off" responsibilities is presiding over the allocation of student funds. This process is a necessarily heated one because as Giles readily admits, "nobody gets what they ask for. We try to scale down the budget proposals where a student group can still have an active organization at a budget price." When the ACLU requested student funds again this year, they were denied outright. Perkins defends this decision, "We attempt not to fund any groups that are partisan or overtly political."

Next year, with the increase in the activities fund, Josh will enjoy some latitude in funding that his predecessor did not. "Part of our reason for increasing the student activity fee was to encourage more groups, and more diverse groups, to come and ask for funding. Sometimes new organizations come up, and just because they are new, we do not give them as much as we should to get started." Yet Josh concedes, "The majority of the funds will go to the main established groups so they can do more of the things they have been doing."

One of the primary recipients of student funding is Contact. Until last year, Contact was funded at least in part by the InterFraternity Council. Last spring, disappointed in its role in selecting Contact committee members, the IFC stopped its funding. "I was disappointed with the InterFraternity Council's decision and I still am." But Giles quickly adds, "We can function well without them. Contact has a place here. It is unique that such a small campus can bring in such prestigious people." Concerning the possibility of bringing the IFC back into the fold, Giles remains rigid. "We will take IFC money, but not on the conditions that they are in position to appoint members of Contact."

"I am happy to see us continually funding Contact." Perkins explains his decision. "Two-thirds of the money comes from the EC, and it is not fair for male-

Greeks to tell the rest of the campus where their money has to be spent." Josh suggests a compromise, "If the IFC would recommend people, then the EC would look upon them favorably. We would try to get a fair representation of people they would like to see on the committee." Giles, however, does not recognize the basis for an IFC complaint. "If you look at the [Contact] committee, most have been members of the IFC anyway."

Another controversy concerning Contact regards the nature of the speakers it brings to campus. Giles immediately dismisses these complaints. "Any student who considers Contact a conservative speaking outlet is misinformed. I consider myself anything but a political conservative and I have seen a number of impressive speakers this year." Perkins does concede, "The contacts that people have on this campus are generally conservative. I think that is a reasonable explanation."

"I would like to see Contact get away from just having political speakers." He notes, "though Roger Smith was here just to try to sell cars, he was interesting."

In addition to the routine responsibilities of the EC president, Giles Perkins also faced a series of controversial moments in his tenure. The first of these surrounded the colonization of Alpha Phi Alpha. Giles was one of few student leaders who vocally opposed the fraternity. Asked if he had changed his mind, Giles replies, "Having a traditionally black fraternity on this campus is a mistake. Segregating people is wrong. The high road would be to push the fraternities we have to accept minority members. That needs to be the future for W&L."

Though the issue of Alpha Phi Alpha may have been resolved, the broader concern of campus racial relations still persists. Josh says, "I do not think there is any widespread harassment. We have a pretty close knit community. It's tough for some, but I don't think we need a special committee to handle their concerns. The Student Conduct Committee is there, hopefully, to handle those issues."

But as it is becoming increasingly ap-

parent from the faculty's reluctance to even address the question of reformulating the CRC, Josh will play a role in appointing students to the CRC. How will he approach these appointments? "I do not think that we will be looking to fill minority 'gaps.' We want people who will appreciate the sensitivity of the issues they are going to be handling and understand the role of the CRC. Not necessarily all women, all minorities, but people who have the ability to handle these very important and complicated issues."

But Josh is quick to point out that he does not support the CRC in its current role. "If the CRC does have a role, it is in sexual assault. The elected Student Conduct Committee can handle the harassment cases. They are mature enough, there is enough minority presence on that committee to handle harassment cases." The question of minority presence on either the SCC or the CRC, though, as "a committee of white men could handle harassment cases."

In reformulating the CRC, both the CRC and the SAC reports have repeatedly referred to General Lee's legacy. What responsibility does the EC have in preserving Lee on campus? Josh answers, "the EC's primary responsibility to Lee is maintaining the Honor System." And, of course, overseeing the Honor System remains the EC president's primary responsibility.

"We've had a lot of honor investigations," Giles notes. "That is indicative of a lot of people participating in the Honor System. The more that are, the better. Five students have been asked to leave this year."

"There were two the year before."

"We've never want an open trial, but its unfortunate that we're getting into a generation of students that have never seen one. I don't know what the ramifications of that are. We like to think that it means we are being more effective and that the students leaving realize that they should be going. It also has to do with the nature of the cases, which varies from year to year."

Despite this increase in convictions

from the year before, Giles emphasizes the importance of assuming the accused's innocence. "I presume that everyone is innocent. I go into a closed hearing on the basis that we need more information. It is very important that we stay focused on the fact that we need more information."

Josh echoes this sentiment, "A lot of times it will look bleak for the accused. You have to remind the Committee that you have to let the accused explain his side and keep an open mind."

Describing the types of cases he would hear as president, MacFarland continues, "If someone brought a case to me that was not one of lying, cheating or stealing, I would still assign someone to investigate it and have them present the findings to the committee. Then it would be up to the committee to decide." Asked to describe a possible Honor violation that did not involve lying, cheating, or stealing, both Giles and Josh could think of only one: rape. Would they hear such a case? Giles says, "We have heard what is brought into us."

Questions of rape, harassment and honor could someday fall under the proposed "Principle of Civility and Decency." The two EC presidents are skeptical of the new principle. "I did not even understand what they were talking about when they included 'The Principle of Civility and Decency' in the CRC proposal," Josh offers.

Giles is even more skeptical. "Who defines 'civil,' who defines 'decent.' Lee defined a gentleman. The Principle gets so far away from what Lee could possibly have meant that it is ridiculous."

Josh concurs, "Included in the idea of Honor is the Code of a Gentleman. The EC's role is to insure that students are involved in that. The students are the beneficiaries of Lee's legacy and they ought to be keeping it going."

The second crisis that Perkins faced this year surrounded the suspension of Delta Tau Delta by the SAC in January. Giles recalls, "I voted for the initial suspension and for the reduction. I thought that it was important to give a suspension both as a discipline to the Delt brothers

for tearing up their house and not coming clean about it and as a message to others that that kind of behavior will not be tolerated." How could Perkins vote for both decisions? "One year, five years never really meant that much to me. One year is fair and it gives them a chance to reorganize. With a five year suspension that would have been difficult."

Can Delt reorganize? Giles believes that they can. "There is an opportunity. They have a real challenge ahead of them. They are going to have to show a lot more than they have in the last few years."

One of last year's concerns that has since subsided regards the City of Lexington Car Tax. Why no talk of a boycott this year? Giles responds, "I felt that the mechanism was there for an effective boycott. If you are going to boycott you are going to have to make it a good one, otherwise you waste whatever power you otherwise would have had on future issues. This year I did not feel there was enough student concern. The campus is sucking it up—paying it or getting around it in their own way."

Is a boycott in the works for next year. Josh doubts it, but leaves the door open. "If the student body becomes more and more outraged by it, then I will look into the possibility of a boycott. The Executive Committee is not going to organize some kind of boycott, however."

The April Fools issue of the *Ring-tum Phi* alluded that the Executive Committee was attempting to dictate editorial policy. Giles denies this fervently. "The EC has had some discussions with the *Phi* editors in a public meeting about our concerns with whether or not they were acting as a responsible press both in a professional sense and in the context of their responsibility to this student body."

Will the EC appoint *Phi* editors in the future? "We did remind them that their money comes from the students through us."

As Giles leaves, he has one primary concern for the future of W&L. "My greatest concern is admissions. In both law and undergraduate, they have done a

fine job in the last few years, but they need to be cautious as we become a more nationally renowned school not to base admissions solely on numbers. If they do, this University will lose the fact that has defined it."

Perkins leaves his office with the admiration of Dean Howison. The dean speaks fondly of Giles, "One of his strengths as the President of the Executive Committee is that he represents student ideas in a very aggressive and effective way. He wants to get to the facts." Howison concludes, "I've been very fortunate and I am confident Josh MacFarland will continue in that tradition."

Josh begins his position with two specific goals.

One, "you need to convey in the Honor Orientation that the Honor System is not there to scare the students. It is the students' Honor System. It is not something to be afraid of, but something that makes their experience that much more special. They have to know that if they break the Honor System, they will be caught and will be punished, that it gives you a lot of privileges and that it carries a lot of responsibility. You need to convey that, and we will."

"We need to keep a close eye on the Student Conduct Committee. If it's going to take over some of the duties of the CRC, then we need to watch over that, and we need to have an ad hoc EC member on the SCC. We need to make sure they are living up their responsibility to the University."

Giles Perkins offers a succinct piece of advice.

"Be patient in the Honor trials. Trust the administration, but not too much. And always remember that you represent the students and nobody else."

Pretty sound advice for any student leader.

CAMPUS  
PERSPECTIVE

**As one student noted last fall, "President Wilson seems to spend more time with architects and contractors than he has with students."**

Jamie Tucker is a senior from Macon, Georgia.

# Building for Dollars

**W**HICH ONE IS PRESIDENT Wilson?" several members of the Class of '92 uttered as they proceeded from Washington Hall to Lee Chapel during the annual convocation ceremony last September. Other students noted that the last time they had seen Wilson was at the welcoming address he gave during Freshman Orientation Week three years ago. It was ironic to some that students, who, for the past four years have devoted much of their time and energy to their beloved soon to be *alma mater*, did not even recognize its President. While for others it was all too typical and representative of a President who has ignored perhaps the most cherished tradition at Washington and Lee—familiarity and community. During his tenure, President Wilson has ignored students and student issues and has focused his attention on leaving a permanent and physical mark on W&L's campus. As one student noted last fall, "President Wilson seems to spend more time with architects and contractors than he has with students."

Within the last ten years and at a cost of millions of dollars, Wilson has pursued a building frenzy that has dramatically altered the face of Washington and Lee's campus. Gaines Dormitory (\$8.5 million), the Lenfest Arts Center (\$7.9 million), Gilliam Admissions House renovations (over \$1 million), the Fraternity Renaissance Program (\$13.5 million and counting) and recently the \$800 thousand Watson gallery have all risen under Wilson's reign. His appetite still not sated, Wilson is now promoting a new \$7.5 million student center as part of the Capital Campaign.

Are Wilson and Washington and Lee getting their money's worth from these projects? On the surface, this question seems easily answered. No one can reasonably argue against the improvement of the physical aspects of our campus that truly enhance the University; however, certain details about these projects have furthered resentment among students towards Wilson. It seems to be a classic example of good intentions turning into bad realities that is now plaguing Washington and Lee.

The Fraternity Renaissance Program turned crumbling houses to beautiful residences, but the present bureaucratic maintenance system (which includes not only inspections by incompetent individuals, but also an apparently precarious association between these inspectors and the contracted Stonewall Management Services company) has proved less than efficient. The Lenfest Arts Center has enriched the lives of the students at W&L by providing an almost limitless facility for the arts, yet some are outraged that so much money was devoted to a building plagued by many planning and construction flaws revealed, and to a department that has so very few majors. The Watson Gallery will add some much needed space for the display of the Reeves Center collections, but some students and faculty argue that there is no need to build another structure in the center of campus, particularly one that would disrupt the order of the colonnade and detract from the beauty of the grassy area.

While Wilson has undertaken the role as plant manager and chief fund raiser, he has ignored the traditional responsibilities as President. His decision not to



devote any time to teaching, like many of his predecessors had done, has created the impression among students that their President is isolated and out of touch. Rarely is President Wilson seen on the hill, making it all the more understandable that many Seniors need to ask who he is. The fact that Wilson emphasizes the physical expansion of the University may also account for the dean proliferation that has occurred during his tenure. If the President is either unable or unwilling to handle the day-to-day affairs of the University, then he must resort to delegating these tasks to a dean or special assistant, who is specifically tasked for these bureaucratic details can.

The relationship between fundraising and the various building projects that have occurred under the Wilson administration has become somewhat blurred. Does the university raise money in order to build buildings or does it build buildings in order to raise money? The answer is both. The University fundraising efforts have been directed to raise money to cover the costs of such projects as Gaines, Lenfest and the proposed student centers have all been used to solicit money from potential donors. However, projects such as the Watson Gallery and the Fraternity Renaissance Program are examples of projects that were completed in order to facilitate soliciting donations to the University, though not necessarily for the building projects themselves. Regardless of the various motivations behind the unprecedented level of building activity that has taken place during President Wilson's administration, it is undoubtedly the most evident mark that he will leave at Washington and Lee.

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□ Marc Kreppel  
Chris Vinyard

COVER  
STORY

Marc Kreppel is a sophomore from Cincinnati, Ohio. Chris Vinyard is a junior from Abingdon, Virginia.

# Outward Appearances

**D**URING ALUMNI WEEKEND many graduates surely will be excited to return to celebrations at W&L's fraternities. Most likely they will be quite impressed with the new look of the fraternity houses, but even more so with the apparent commitment that the University has made to restoring the Greek System here.

The Winter issue of the Alumni Magazine illustrates such commitment with a six page spread detailing Fraternity Renaissance. The article describes the new goals for W&L's Greek System, namely the "Standards for Fraternities," while portraying in photos the continued strong social atmosphere at W&L. The article quotes Col. Paul J. B. Murphy, '49, "The program is sometimes seen only in the outward appearance of the buildings, and that was only part of what we set out to achieve."

The University, however, should not wonder why the program is sometimes seen only in the outward appearance because they are partially responsible for promoting such understanding. The reassuring photo of a Homecoming party on Red Square, replete with cocktails and a *Jim Beam* bottle placed strategically near a celebrating coed, graced the cover of the issue. Further emphasizing that outward appearance, the landscape and lawn upkeep of Red Square occurs rigorously during only two weeks of the year—the week before Homecoming Weekend and the week before Alumni Weekend. Members of the W&L community who visit the campus only once or twice a year have time only to see and admire the "outward appearance" of the University and the fraternity system.

Interestingly, in the Spring issue of the Alumni Magazine, two opposing letters appeared in reference to the Winter issue's article. One letter praised the Renaissance: "It is reassuring to see that the University, at all levels, has restored the system which made W&L unique...[by] 'fraternity renaissance' promoted and paid for by the University." Another reaction was surprised that "a staggering \$13 million has just been spent to create an appropriate 'vessel' for the bodies and souls of fraternity boys." Although different, both reactions are focused on the commitment of the University in supposedly fully subsidizing a new, improved fraternity system. Actually though, of the \$13 million spent on the fraternity renovations, the University agreed only to pay \$6 million in exchange for the deeds to the houses, leaving the remaining costs of the Renaissance, now estimated at more than \$7 million, to be repaid by the Greek members to the University over a thirty year period. Hence, in the long run, the University is not so much funding fraternity life as it is expanding W&L's campus. Unfortunately the Fraternity Renaissance may soon end up costing both the fraternities and the University much, much more than was originally expected.

Behind the outward appearance of success that W&L portrays to the Alumni, some alarming problems have developed in the first phase of the Fraternity Renaissance program. Originally, because of the proposed efficiency of the new houses, low maintenance costs were cited as one of the most beneficial aspects of the renovations. Instead of realizing this effect, fraternity members already living in their new houses know that main-

tenance costs are not low, but, in fact, are much higher than they had been before their houses were renovated. Still, the most dramatic change is that, now, instead of the fraternities themselves being responsible for providing necessary maintenance for their houses (whether the work be done by laborers hired by the fraternity, or by the members themselves), the University has graciously contracted *Stonewall Management Services* to take care of all general and specialized maintenance in every fraternity house. This at first might seem necessary to centralize maintenance and create a sense of consistency among houses. It has, instead, created a bureaucracy matched only in absurdity by those administrating it.

Associate Dean of Students, Leroy "Buddy" Atkins believes it is best for all involved that the maintenance of the fraternity houses not be performed by W&L's Buildings and Grounds Department. "There's no need to have fraternities paying for all that bureaucracy if we can get an outside contractor to take it on," says Atkins. Apparently Dean Atkins would rather the fraternities fund a bureaucracy that is closer to home since this arrangement has only added to the complexity and cost of maintaining the fraternities. Now, as the University contracts maintenance to *Stonewall Management*, they in turn sub-contract the work to independent workers in town.

During the first year of the arrangement, Billy Hall, who manages *Stonewall Management*, sub-contracted all the maintenance to his brother, Cliff Hall. Cliff once described the process of fixing a broken window, especially noting all the steps that were undertaken even before any work could be done. For instance, if



**J** the  
**Jefferson**  
Florist to The Homestead

he is in a fraternity repairing something and notices a broken window, he cannot simply replace it and charge the fraternity. First the damage needs to be reported to Jim Boyd, Assistant Construction Manager for W&L's Buildings and Grounds. Mr. Boyd then must go to the fraternity to verify that a window is indeed broken. He in turn usually writes up a report that is sent to the fraternity's house mother, their house corporation, and Dean Atkins. When Mr. Boyd confirms with all the groups that the window is actually broken, he calls *Stonewall's* Billy Hall, who in turn authorizes Cliff to fix the window. Now after Cliff has completed the window repair, he sends a labor and supplies estimate back to his brother Billy who, after calculating his fair contracting share, sends the newly revised bill to Jim Boyd for a reason that is not altogether clear. As Boyd himself said, "I make a reasonable adjustment as I know what's been worked on, then I make a reasonable determination of whether it's a fair cost or not." Apparently Mr. Boyd decides whether the work

he requested was in fact necessary and has by his standards been "fairly" charged. After making any and all of these "reasonable" adjustments, he sends the final bill to the W&L Billing Office which distributes it to the House Corporation and finally to the fraternity treasurer. When fraternities receive their monthly bill for maintenance, no more information is listed than costs of materials and labor (which is suspiciously in only \$5 increments). It is nearly impossible to find out how much time was ever spent on any one job as the bills are received long after the work is performed. Although Jim Boyd believes that knowledge of the number of hours or workers for a particular job is unnecessary, many fraternities would appreciate such "frivolous" information. Ironically, Cliff Hall said that when he sent bills to his brother, Billy, they were specific as to the amount of time and type of work performed. Hence somewhere this information is lost, or thrown away, or withheld so fraternities will never know it.

By instituting this ridiculously redun-

dant system of checks and balances the University was likely attempting to protect themselves and fraternities from overcharging, but now the fraternities are faced with an even worse situation—very little accountability is present in this system, and they are often forced to pay bills that before renovation were easily and more inexpensively handled by themselves. Fraternities are not allowed to hire someone on their own to fix or clean any part of their house, even if the work meets the "Standards for Fraternities." Since all work necessary in the houses must be contracted through *Stonewall Management*, monthly bills often total over \$1800. (re-installing a screen, \$5.20;

repairing damaged stair tread, \$5.00 materials, \$70.00 labor; after-party cleanup, \$95.00.) The bills often add up and, unfortunately, the fraternities have no way to keep such costs down. By neglecting the fraternities the option of choosing their own maintenance system, the University is forcing them to fall victim to the corruption and exploitation that is always present when open competition is suppressed.

Possibly the most discouraging aspect is that this system affects not only the fraternities' check books. Since the University and the house corporations agreed during the development of the Fraternity Renaissance to pay for the "general main-

tenance" charges that the houses incur due to everyday wear and tear, they also are directly influenced by the whims of *Stonewall Maintenance*. This ultimately leads to the question: "Why isn't the school doing anything about this?" Unfortunately, the answer remains unclear. Any attempts made (and many have been) by house officers to complain about questionable charges or even about the system as a whole have resulted in a vicious circle of "buck-passing" among deans and maintenance service representatives alike. Some believe that the University is so far committed financially that any admittance that things aren't running smoothly would damage the University's reputation among alumni supporters and possibly jeopardize the completion of the Renaissance.

The University's stake in Fraternity Renaissance has potential to increase greatly because of legal costs. Currently, the contractor for one fraternity is in legal battle with the painter that was hired to paint the Red Square houses. Though the painter may be the reason paint is peeling from doors and walls and doesn't match in certain areas of those houses, the University has yet to take any action.

Many people, from housemothers to carpenters to fraternity brothers, feel that many corners were cut in Phase I of Fraternity Renaissance. Dean Atkins believes the work on the project fell so many months behind schedule because of supervision. He said, "Bass [the contractor hired for Phase I] was top rate. The only problem was time, due to mis-calculation in the amount of supervision needed." Unfortunately, good supervision is possibly the most important part of any contract job.



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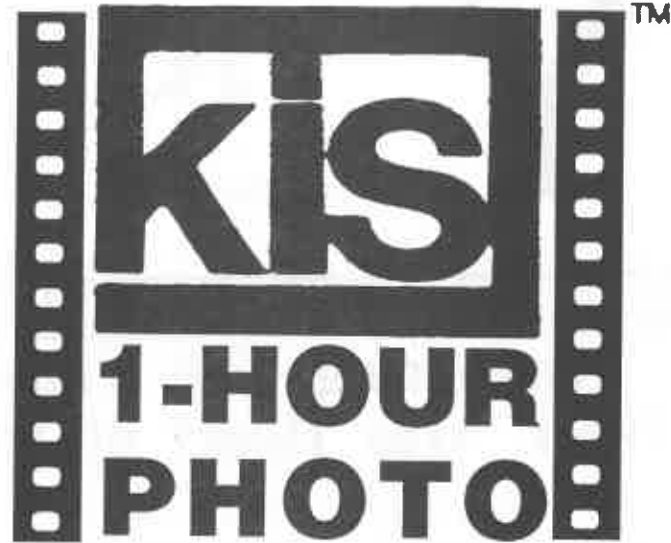
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When two steps were pulling away from the bottom of the staircase in one fraternity, supervision was obviously the problem. The house mother reported the problem, explaining that if they fall and someone gets hurt, her fraternity and the University could be liable. The steps were fixed quickly because of the liability, revealing that the contractors used only nail on each side of the staircase. Bass agreed to pay for the repair of the steps, but the potential for other dangerous situations remains unanswered.

The Alumni Magazine article admits that "at its [fraternity renaissance's] midpoint, there have been some missteps...student's displeasure with the high cost of maintenance plans and with the various small problems in the construction" of the houses. Claiming the University is listening to such complaints, Atkins says, "The complaints cannot be ignored, and they are not being ignored, but the importance of the entire plan can't get lost in the process, either."

# Thomas C. Bradshaw III



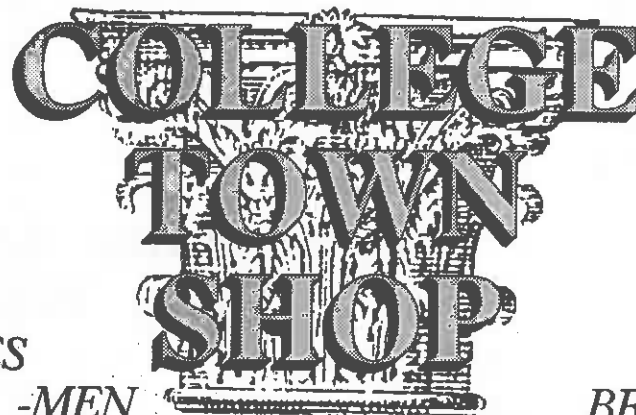
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"Walt Whitman was a chronic masturbator" -- James Warren

Volume I, Issue 1

Washington and Lee University

May 1992

## Answering The Conservative Myth: W&L Was Heart of Sixties Radicalism!

In this YAWN exclusive, President John Wilson explains that Cal-Berkeley had nothing when it came to tear gas and loud hair compared to good old W&L!

"I was wandering around in the rare books room in our gorgeous Georgian library," King John said, "when I came across some yellowed *Ring-tum Phis* with Abbie Hoffmann and Alan Ginsberg on the front covers!"

It seems that President Wilson maintains W&L was the center of a

heretofore unknown Radical Overt Aboveground Railroad (also known as ROAR), and that often the fugitive leaders of the anti-war movement would hide in the basement of Lee House.

"It makes me giddy, truly giddy, to think that those great national leaders once trod the hardwood floors of my castle, uh, I mean house.

"Mrs. Wilson and I sleep so much better now just knowing that people who are *truly* famous, just,

honorable and respected once stayed here."

Wilson says he was going to immediately release the results to the press, until Lawrence Broomall convinced him to wait.

"We figured the national prestige and attention could wait until after the Capital Campaign is over. After all, we wouldn't want to destroy tradition until after we get the money."

Wilson said he offered this as a YAWN exclusive because he knew no one reads us anyway.

### Poetry

By "Turtle" Kneck

Southern scum! —  
get off my back.  
Run you down  
to the railroad track —  
clickety-click —  
clickety-clack —  
Redneck blues  
Sing scooooo dolefully! —  
Love My Earth!  
Sink yours to sea —

### Fraternities Are Plague Upon W&L!!!

By WM. "I Missed that Left Turn at" Albuquerque

Broken windows, fishing trips complete with alcohol (gasp!), loud music: it's apparent that every vice known to mankind thrives within the brothel-like environment of W&L's fraternity houses.

The question arises: why spend all this money to propagate evil when University funds could go to better, more worthwhile causes: building a new student center to be exact? After all, I'd use it!

To examine the fraternity system

of which it is obvious I have no knowledge whatsoever, I went undercover. I put on some plaid pants, the only shirt I have that is not black (it's a beautiful mauve,) and went through Rush. Unfortunately, no one spoke to me, so I didn't find much out. I did, however, come to some incredibly short-sighted conclusions that have no factual basis whatsoever. For my uninformed opinions, please turn to page four.

□ Nancy Mitchell

# The Birth of a Tradition

## SPORTS

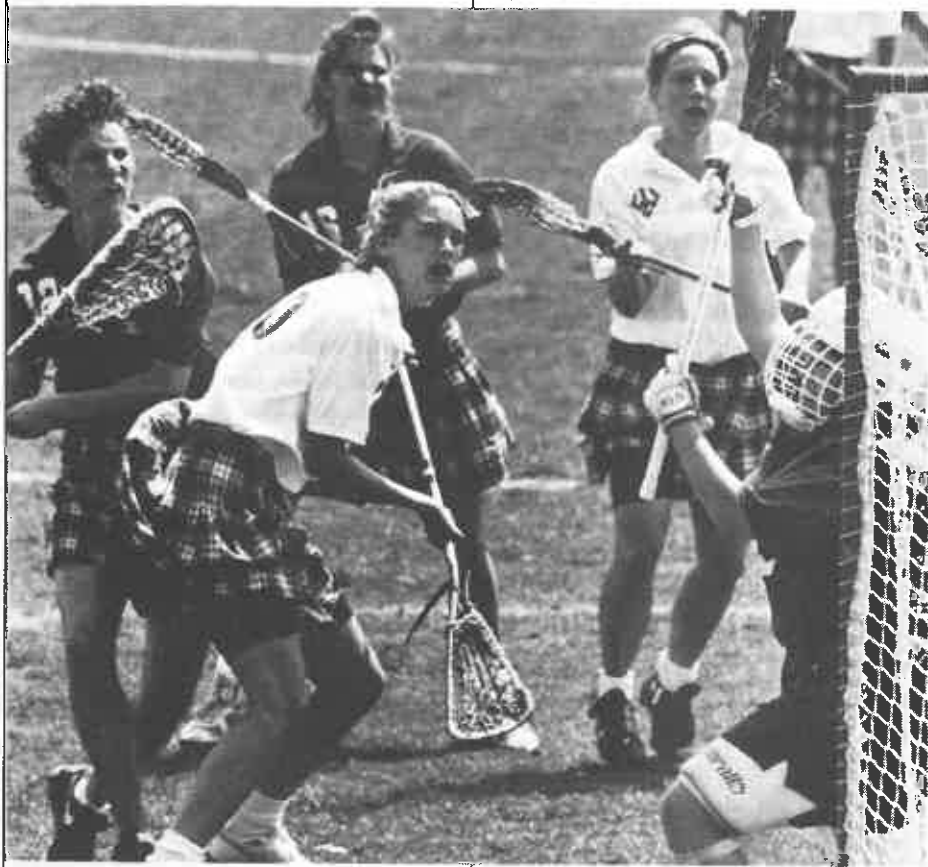
**O**N JULY 14, 1984 THE BOARD of Trustees voted to admit women to Washington and Lee. The NCAA had previously mandated that any coed college or university have at least four "fully functioning" athletic teams for

tion, William McHenry, W&L's Athletic Director during the move to coeducation, was determined to create a women's program that would be "every bit as successful as the men's." To help meet this goal, Cinda Rankin was hired as the Women's Athletic Director. Rankin came to W&L after coaching tennis at Clifton Forge High School in Virginia and Humboldt State University in California. Rankin was the first woman to be employed at the University as a direct result of coeducation.

According to Rankin, the University's general decision was to begin the program with just four sports, sports in which the individual could succeed, as opposed to team sports where greater numbers are required. The Athletic Department used surveys to estimate the women's interest in specific sports. With only 105 women at W&L, Rankin set out to create women's tennis, swimming, cross-country, and golf teams.

Although successful in developing several women's teams, the first season's final records were not exactly impressive. The women's tennis team, coached by Bill Washburn, placed in the cellar of the Old Dominion Athletic Conference (ODAC) with a record of 1-8. The women's cross country team, coached by Dick Miller, finished with a 1-5-0 record during its first season. The swimming team, with only three members, finished its season with a 0-9 record under coach Page Remillard. And unfortunately, a women's golf team was never realized due to lack of interest.

According to Rankin, three freshmen women, Catherine Christian, Kathy Boardman and Alexa Salzman came to the athletic department with interest in



both men and women; and if the institution failed to accomplish this for either gender, the other teams could be deemed ineligible. The W&L Athletic Department, the only department that voted unanimously against coeducation, was now faced with the daunting task of building a women's athletic program in just one year.

Despite his opinions about coeduca-

Nancy Mitchell is a senior from Atlanta, Georgia. She is the tri-captain of the 1991-92 women's varsity soccer team and was named ODAC player of the year.



starting the fourth women's team: soccer. McHenry and Rankin turned to Coach Rolf Piranian, the men's soccer coach, to take charge of the team. Coach Piranian agreed to accept the task if and only if the women could find at least 15 interested players. The following day, Christian, Boardman, and Salzman gathered 26 women out of a class of 105 to play. Rankin recalls, "most of them knew very little about the sport, over half had never played soccer before! It was the women who really pushed to have a successful 'developmental varsity' team and of the 26 original players, 25 finished the season. Incidentally, the first goal the team ever scored was in a game with Virginia Tech, however ironically, the goal was accidentally scored against the General's own net!

Rankin adds, "athletics proved to be the ideal social outlet for the first class of women because they didn't have sororities or any other organized women's groups. Those women were out there to have a great time, and without realizing it they were the foundations of a promising athletic program."

Despite the rocky starts, these women's teams may have endured, there

were several notable aspects to the original 1985-86 seasons. Elizabeth Miles, one of the three members of the swim team, qualified for NCAA Division III National Championships as well as being named as a Division III All-American. Most importantly, four women's teams had been established, soon joined by four additional teams: indoor and outdoor track, volleyball, and lacrosse.

Washington and Lee's present Athletic Director Mike Walsh claims although he was not with the University at the inception of the women's athletic program, that without the financial support of the administration, the program certainly would not have achieved the respectable level it has. Rankin agrees, "Generally, with the start of a women's athletic program, the women get all the left-overs: left-over uniforms, left-over equipment, left-over staffing, left-over field space, and left-over finances. Yet the W&L administration provided close to every request Mr. McHenry and I made. Thanks to the administration and Mr. McHenry's commitment to this enormous project, it was a success almost immediately."

The success Rankin refers to is evident in the current statistics. Rankin herself is the women's head tennis coach, and has been named 1992 ODAC Coach of the Year. In just

its seventh year of competition, the tennis team has produced twenty-five singles and doubles ODAC champions and three first place team finishes in the ODAC. Jean Stroman, class of '91 tennis standout, was twice named ODAC player of the year and chosen to attend the NCAA Division III Championships three times. Additionally, the women's tennis team was the first and only W&L women's team thus far selected to attend a Division III National Tournament.

The W&L swimming team, also in their seventh year of competition, has won the ODAC Championship four times. Coach Remillard led the women for their first six seasons, and was also named ODAC Coach of the Year. The present women's head swimming coach, Kristen Jacobs, just came to W&L this year from Western Illinois. In addition to the accomplishments of Elizabeth Miles,





The W&L Athletic Department, the only department that voted unanimously against coeducation, was now faced with the daunting task of building a women's athletic program in just one year.

Claire Dudley, '93, has qualified for the National Championships all three years she had attended W&L. After seven seasons, thirty-seven swimmers have been named to the All ODAC roster.

The women's soccer team, coached by Jan Hathorn, has never won the ODAC tournament, although it boasts a regular season championship for the 1991 season. Hathorn came to W&L in 1987 from Denison University and has served as head coach for both the women's soccer and lacrosse teams, and she has been named ODAC Coach of the Year in both sports. Eleven of Hathorn's soccer players have been selected as All-ODAC players, two have been named to the Virginia All-State women's team, one as All South Region, another as ODAC Player of the Year.

Hathorn's lacrosse team just recently won the ODAC tournament, the first in just four years of play in the ODAC. Additionally, ten of the women lacrosse players have been named All-ODAC.

Coach Jim Phemister, a W&L law professor since 1974, has coached the women's cross country team since its inception in 1985. Six of Coach Phemister's runners have been named All ODAC, in addition to Paige Carson's, '89, selection as ODAC Runner of the Year.

Coached by Susan Dittman, former George Mason University volleyball standout, the women's volleyball team is also in its fourth year of ODAC competition and has produced six All-ODAC players. Coach Dittman has lead her team to the ODAC semifinals in both 1989 and 1990.

The women's track team is coached by John Tucker, a '77 graduate of Washington and Lee and former track standout.

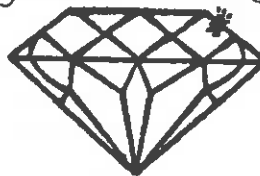
After only four seasons in the ODAC, Tucker's team boasts a 18-6-1 career record. Tucker's team competes against ODAC women's track teams and has proven to be strong contenders in the region. Tucker anticipates having several athletes qualify for the National Championships as two just missed qualification this season.

Presently, there are three women club teams, field hockey, softball, and basketball that are all looking for a possible Varsity label. This is no easy accomplishment. The Athletic Department must see an adequate level of interest on the part of the athletes. They must also find a suffi-

cient number of competitors in the ODAC, as well as a growing national trend for that sport.

Athletic Director Walsh reflects, "the women's program is one in which the department has a great deal of pride. Our first source of pride is in the athletes themselves. So many of the women are key people in the university community. The coaches must also be applauded for their dedication to the program and their talents in motivating the athletes. Without these factors, and of course the support of the university itself, we certainly would not have achieved what we have thus far."

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Unlike other "message" candidacies which sprung up in both parties, this campaign and its workers seemed as sincere as their candidate's accent. This show is for real.

Cameron Humphries is a Junior from Dallas Texas.

# Perotismo and the Presidency

**A**DDRESSING A FIELD OF REPORTERS outside his unofficial campaign headquarters in Dallas, H. Ross Perot said in his characteristic East Texas twang, "I'd just like to thank all these good people for coming out and taking an interest." That was in mid-March. Perot had just ignited a national fury with his offer to run for President were his name placed on the ballot in all 50 states. No small task, yet volunteers by the hundreds gathered in Dallas, Austin, Atlanta, Richmond and other cities to support his candidacy. Answering the hundreds of thousands of calls the campaign received each week would have been a significant task itself, but unlike other "message" candidacies which sprung up in both parties, this campaign and its workers seemed as sincere as their candidate's accent. This show is for real.

Responding to all those good people who kept coming out, the Perot effort expanded. In early April, it leased a 50,000 square foot communications building in North Dallas where it consolidated the efforts of its several campaign centers. In the heart of this building rests a multi-million dollar telecommunications computer which prioritizes callers by the state from which they call---callers from states needing the most signatures receive the highest priority. Throughout the state of Texas, which ironically might have the most daunting independent presidential candidacy requirements (57,000 signatures of persons who did not vote in the Super Tuesday primary), Perot billboards line the freeways of the state's metropolitan areas. One of the state's two leading newspapers, *The Dallas Morning News*, devoted a week-long front page series to

the Perot campaign, detailing the man, his friends, and his politics. The result? Recent polls show that in Texas Perot now leads the President by as much as five percent and enjoys a ten point advantage over the rapidly disintegrating campaign of Arkansas governor, Bill Clinton.

That the latest polls do not surprise most Texans shocks many observers outside the state, but it shouldn't. Regardless of Bush's steadfast insistence that he is a Texan, he's not and those in the state who care about such things know it. Perot, then, enjoys a geographical advantage over the President. More importantly, as memories of the Persian Gulf victory fade, Texans view Perot as a man who accomplishes his agenda and Bush as a man who does not. No one really knows what Perot's agenda actually is, least of all Perot himself, but those who support him (and many who do not) believe that what ever course he eventually follows, he will succeed in seeing his agenda through to completion. This confidence, call it *Perotismo* if you will, is what energizes those who support him and terrifies those who don't.

For all his accomplishments, however, Perot remains as much a myth as man. He is a product of Texas folk-lore; the state where everything is bigger and better. Though, in Texan terms, there are far more romantic ways in which to make one's fortune than computer systems information (such as oil, real estate or cattle), Perot remains Texas' most beloved and romanticized billionaire maverick. While President Carter watched helplessly as Iran held 55 American Embassy hostages, Ross Perot independently financed a military rescue of his own men trapped there as described in *On Wings of*

## Perot is a twentieth century knight on a white horse—exactly the kind of leader the constitution is designed to protect us against.

*Eagles* by Ken Follett. At the request of then Texas Governor Mark White, Perot chaired a blue-ribbon state committee on Texas education, implementing a broad array of reforms. And most recently, Perot stood alone against General Motors' board of directors in his criticism of the corporation, a stance that while it cost him his position in the company profited him hundreds of millions of dollars. Most would conclude that the recent GM layoffs and billion dollar quarterly losses prove Perot correct. Perot is the man who can take the high road and make billions by doing so.

The Perot legend has humble origins. Starting with a meager \$1000 of personal savings in 1962, Perot built what would become a \$3 billion fortune in less than three decades. Not quite. After leaving IBM fresh with the largest single commission Big Blue had ever doled out, Perot founded Electronic Data Systems (EDS). As Texas law requires beginning corporations to have at least one thousand dollars in assets, Perot did begin his corporation with a mere grand. But he immediately loaned the new company hundreds of thousands of dollars from his own savings. Building the financial wealth he enjoys beginning even with hundreds of millions, much less thousands, of dollars is no small accomplishment. That Perot does not believe this is enough, that he has intentionally exaggerated it, speaks volumes about his own character. But exaggerations about his own accomplishments do not stop there.

Most consider Perot to be a champion of the free-enterprise system. After all, *laissez-faire* worked for well enough for him, didn't it? If he actually believes in free market economics, it is not because

he practiced them in his business dealings. He avoided markets at every turn, preferring government contracts and monopoly to private enterprise and competition. One such business venture, Alliance Airport, a airline maintenance facility north of Dallas-Ft. Worth, relied upon a \$120 million federal grant. It was with no small irony, then, that the Bush administration canceled this grant in April after Perot spoke against federal subsidies.

In his fall campaign, Perot will most certainly cite his efforts as chair of the Governor's commission on Education in 1984 in which Perot addressed the Texas education system. The actual recommendations of that commission are not widely known, for they were never released. Instead, Perot used those of another private group and claimed them for himself. Even though Perot bought off every state lobbyist, the proposal remained controversial among state lawmakers. The plan: lengthen the school day and school year, standardize curricula, require students to pass all courses to participate in extracurricular activities, and test teachers' basic skills. The result? While it will require years to determine the overall effectiveness of the proposal, others are already manifest. One, testing teachers cost the Governor the endorsement of the teachers union in his reelection campaign, and that, coupled with the loss of voters upset by the tax increase necessary to finance Perot's plan, cost the Governor reelection. Two, Perot's ingenious plan of simply spending more money burdened Texans with the largest tax increase in the state's history at the same time the state's economy plunged into what would be at least a seven year recession. There are a myriad of social programs and serv-

ices currently needing funding, but no money left in the state's coffers. Three, not only have test scores not improved, they have declined by 11%. Merely a result of random variation? Hardly. Perot's plan is at fault.

And why should it have worked? Despite his East Texas charm and homeliness, H. Ross Perot is no more a man of the people than is the "aristocrat" George Herbert Walker Bush or the bureaucrat Bill Clinton. Perot has already promised to spend at least \$100 million on his presidential campaign. Assuming a median family income of \$28,000, it would be like Joe Q. Taxpayer announcing his candidacy and pledging \$9,500 to that effort. A pittance. Ross Perot enjoys an annual income exceeding \$300 million. His net worth exceeds \$3 billion. And just how much is \$3 billion? Interest and inflation and other such matters aside, if you were employed for \$1,000,000 a year at the birth of Christ, you would need to continue working until the conclusion of the coming millennia to amass the wealth Perot possess today. In more realistic terms, were you employed upon graduation for the modest sum of \$60,000,000 a year, you would not have amassed Perot's fortune by your (assumed) retirement at seventy. Perot has more wealth than the average American is even capable of imagining. Regardless of one's roots, it is impossible to remain a man of the people with such a fortune insulating you from them at every turn.

As a businessman, administrator, and entrepreneur Perot has few equals. Many things that Perot is saying about the size of government and the debt crisis, as well as reforming the political system constitute solid and legitimate concerns. His an-



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swers are what is so troubling about H. Ross Perot, for Perot considers himself the answer. Put me in charge, he says, and I will take care of you. America is responding to this offer. Perot is a twentieth century knight on a white horse---exactly the kind of leader the constitution is designed to protect us against.

Perot said on "Larry King Live" that what most upset him about government today is how slowly it functions. In that sentiment he is joined by the majority of the nation, frustrated with a Congress that fails to address any substantive national problem, while voting itself payraises, bouncing checks, and enjoying a plethora of perks all at taxpayer expense. All this while the nation pines away in recession. As has been the tendency of the nation to do in time of economic hardship or moral crisis, once again the nation appears willing to look aside as Constitutional principles are sacrificed in favor of an economic or social "quick fix."

Enter H. Ross Perot. Howard Phillips, chairman of the U.S. Taxpayers Party, recalls "on more than one occasion I've heard Mr. Perot say that the reason the Japanese and the Germans are doing so well economically vis-a-vis the United States is that, after World War II, they were able to scrap what Mr. Perot called their 'outdated constitutions.'" Now, after a century and a quarter of chipping away at the Constitution to create various programs, there quite simply is very little Constitution left. The scope of the federal government now extends so far beyond its Constitutional boundaries as not to be recognizable. States currently possess very little power to address the needs of its citizens, and the federal government is poised to assume the few remaining state responsibilities. The Supreme Court, empowered merely to interpret the laws of the land, is the only branch of government to have enacted any meaningful legislation in two decades, save the Executive that now has the power to plunge the nation into war without so

much as a whimper from Congress. Our liberties are presently hanging in the balance. Government intrusion into the lives of everyday, ordinary Americans has become the rule. And Perot promises to extend that intrusion even farther, beginning with the Internal Revenue Service.

Perot has claimed that by streamlining the IRS and collecting unpaid taxes, he can increase government revenues by \$180 billion without increasing taxes. Sounds great, but at what cost to our liberties? The IRS, which currently enjoys almost carte blanche with federal and state laws, would enjoy increased powers under Perot.

Though his civil rights policy seems simple enough, "we're all here together, so let's just get along." He is a devout majoritarian, over and above Biblical and Constitutional principles. It should not be surprising that this techno-nerd wants to create an "electronic town hall" in which every citizen votes on "the important issues," but what has received little scrutiny is his belief that everything ought be put to a vote. What about individual rights?

The American system of government, especially at the federal level, was carefully designed to be slow. Expediency and efficiency are the catch words of despots and dictators, not democrats. The American system of government is vulnerable now in many ways---that Ross Perot is a viable candidate for this nation's highest office testifies to one particular weakness, leadership. And Perot remains an effective leader and patriot. While he could accomplish little as the nation's Chief Executive Officer, he could serve her irreparable damage.

□ Marc Short

## CAMPUS PERSPECTIVE

If we entrust the University to those who neither understand it nor care, we have only ourselves to blame.

Marc Short is a senior from Virginia Beach, Virginia.

# The Last Word

**T**HE ANNUAL ISSUE IS UPON US IN which departing senior staff members discuss the direction of the University. Is it moving down the path toward a true liberal arts education or wandering toward a haven for multiculturalists, better known as the bowels of hell? I find myself in a peculiar and paradoxical situation because on the one hand, the past four years have been the most enjoyable of my life and therefore I believe the decision to attend W&L was one of my most fortunate. Yet on the other hand, our class of '92 has witnessed some disturbing trends that do not bode well for the future of our beloved university. It is this grave concern for the future that prompted the founding of the *Spectator* exactly four years ago and that continues to give it a meaningful purpose.

One of *Spectator's* soundest and most widely supported planks has been a call to return to the days of greater student autonomy. The *in loco parentis* notion of the 60s and 70s placed power in the hands of universities, yet this power has been grossly abused. As a result, the administrators in Washington Hall have thrived on the bureaucratization of the university. A recent issue of ours noted that in the past ten years the number of non-teaching employees has sky-rocketed by 90% while the increase in full time professors lags behind at 21.5%. Few would disagree that we have been saturated with Deans. While I have no first-hand knowledge of Dean McCloud's nor Dean Schroer-Lamont's work, I still wonder why we need a Dean of Minority Students and a Dean of Women when we already have a competent Dean of Students. Are minorities and women not stu-

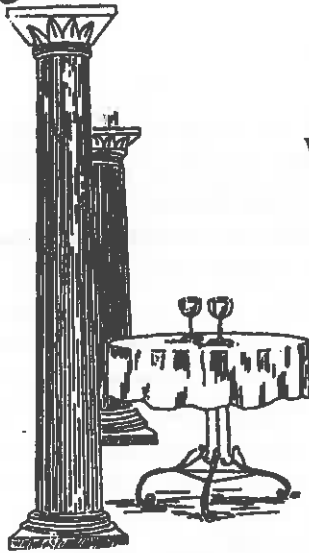
dents? Or should we simply rename

Dean Howison's position Dean of White Male Students?

While the growing bureaucracy has surely curtailed student autonomy, Dean Howison's short tenure has produced some promising changes. His remodeling of the Student Conduct Committee to grant it greater authority rather than to force constant review of its decisions by the Student Affairs Committee is encouraging, especially because SAC is comprised of 50% faculty members. Likewise, Howison's publication of the names of the members of our own Star-Chamber (CRC) provides accountability. And finally, hiring Dean Manning on the basis of student praise builds confidence among students that their opinion matters. Yet, last year's now infamous bottle-throwing incident is a constant reminder that student government is on shaky ground.

To remind those who have forgotten, in the course of Fraternity Renaissance three students were suspended by President Wilson for throwing beer bottles through fraternity windows. In the ensuing chaos Dean Howison complained that the incident posed "a threat to the Washington and Lee community" and President Wilson lamented that "Student Governments didn't function very well, so I had to intervene". In other words, the SCC should have handled the case. What the administration failed to mention, however, is that the Hill knew of the incident three days before Wilson rashly suspended the students. Despite the fact that most SCC cases originate from the Dean's office, SCC President Tom Spurgeon was not informed until after the suspension. No one can nor has anyone tried

*Il Palazzo*



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to condone or excuse the actions of the students. But for President Wilson to claim student government failed while hiding the incident from the student body in order to make an example certainly demonstrates an atmosphere of mistrust. If the administration cannot trust the student body and if the students cannot trust the administration, how then can we possibly believe that we will witness a return to student autonomy?

President Wilson's ludicrous claim that "autonomy cannot be equated with circling the wagons, that is, using the bonds of brotherhood to create a sanctuary from the standards of civilized life," certainly did little to endear him to the hearts of fraternity members. But fraternities are not free from blame either. Having actively participated in the fraternity system, its leadership is perhaps the most distressing and disappointing area of my past four years. We cannot stand idly by allowing the university to freely usurp more and more power. It is a strange sight to see University Security now walk into

university owned fraternity houses to remove a keg from a party. Certainly, this idea would be foreign to both alumni and to Murph.

A glaring example of the InterFraternity Council's incompetence lies in the decision making process to colonize the black fraternity Alpha Phi Alpha. Several fraternity presidents privately voiced opposition to the new fraternity, but feared the damaging label of racist and therefore cast their votes in favor of colonization. How ironic this is. It seems to me that one who votes to avoid institutionalized segregation is anything but racist. The minority students have admirably attacked the exclusive fraternity system of the past, yet now want their own segregation on their own terms. Also, why has the IFC failed to take a stand on the outrageous billing system of Stonewall Management Services despite continual complaints by both fraternity presidents and housemothers?

If student leaders fail to lead us, we are left in a precarious situation. That is, if student leaders continue to bow to the

demands of administrators, who will provide a check on Washington Hall's power? As it has been phrased before, who will guard the guardians? Where should we turn to protect the vested interests of our university when the multiculturalists come parading down the colonnade? Ideally, the Board of Trustees would be an option, but they have remained suspiciously quiet.

It appears now that the faculty may deliver a fatal blow to the hated CRC at the faculty meeting on May 4th. The Confidential Review Committee is a most puzzling tragedy in recent W&L history. Again, is it not ironic that the student activists of the 60's, who are now our professors, fought for freedom of speech but now wish to control our thoughts by prohibiting speech that is deemed "insensitive" by the self-annointed intellectuals? The argument that no one has been expelled for improper speech yet is meaningless—why wait for the first case? How would you like to be the parent of a child who is sent home because his religious convictions lead him to fervently believe and openly speak out that homosexuality is morally repugnant?

Anyhow, Dean Howison's initiative in forever changing this insipid committee cannot be underscored. Surprisingly though, his recommendations for reform were opposed by two of three current student CRC members who voted to maintain the current policy which could expel a student for being politically incorrect.

Again, where do we turn? In the Winter 1991 issue of the Alumni Magazine University Rector Stephens Miles opined that accreditation agencies who insist on affirmative action and diversity policies should be ignored. Providing thi



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ray of hope he continues, "political correctness has no place at W&L." Why then has the Board of Trustees not killed the CRC? What does the Board have to say about classes such as "African-Americans in the Urban North," "Black American Female Writers of the Twentieth Century," and University Scholars lectures like "Critical Cross Dressing: Male Feminists and the Woman of the Year" and "Feminist Criticism in the Wilderness?" Why so quiet?

Fortunately, the tainting of the curriculum is the exception and not the rule, but the termites are busy eating away at the foundation. Certainly past administrations would have found it difficult to tolerate or condone the actions of Professors Hedquist and Peck last Spring. That a professor would threaten to boycott business of advertisers would have been inconceivable to me as a freshman. Professor has yet to sustain her allegations that the *Spectator* is either "racist, sexist, [or] offensively conservative" much less all three. After Professor Hedquist quieted, Professor Peck rekindled the torch and carried on the crusade for censorship. After visiting local merchants her tirade continued in the Spring issue of the Traveller stating, "I find it exceedingly ironic that these students [presumably only those of us who work for the *Spectator*] would remember the birthday of Robert E. Lee, the man who fought to defend the system of slavery, and put as much emphasis on the birthday of Martin Luther King, who fought to end the system of slavery in the twentieth century." Aside from the historical inaccuracies of this statement, the University's name is Washington and Lee, not Washington and King. (Though some might question for how long.) Professor Peck continued

her enlightening prose, "[Sparta's] fall bears comparison with the fall of the South, another society divided rigidly into two tiers: the aristocrats and the slaves. Could it be that the editors of the *Spectator* desire a return to the Old South with all its repressions and inequities?" Well, she's got us there! That is truly what we want, but instead we live on an academic plantation where Ms. Peck and her activist cohorts constitute one class and the rest of us fall in the other. Who is in what class? Your guess.

While this incident marks the demerit of my four years at W&L, it is little reflection my overall experience in the W&L community. Unfortunately, however, much of the satisfaction has come from activities not necessarily independent of the University, but those whose connection is loosely associated. Perhaps the lesson is for the University to loosen its grip on student life. We all have a romantic desire to return in the future to a W&L that is much as we remembered it as we left it. But there are

storm clouds on the horizon. Each year it appears that the admissions policy is geared toward abandoning the all-around student in favor of luring candidates from the Ivy League. Why compete with the Ivy League? Washington and Lee is neither a Dartmouth, Harvard, Princeton, or Yale nor should it aspire to become one. With its tradition and character, W&L offers an educational opportunity all its own. Perhaps that can be said of almost any institution of higher education, but we are not arguing that others schools should emulate us. We only want W&L to remain our own. A former *Spectator* editor remarked, "never has a school had so much to be proud of, yet at the same time acted so ashamed."

Each of the underclassmen and those of us who will soon join the ranks of the alumni has a responsibility to ensure that our University retains those qualities which we hold dear. If we entrust her legacy to those who neither understand it nor care, we have only ourselves to blame.

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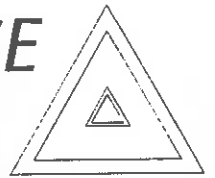
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